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OPINION METER

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INSIDE

Three Scholars
The Rotary Club of Saipan awards scholarships to three high school students.

LOCAL...Page 7

Unusual Radiation
High radiation levels have been detected near the border between the two Koreas.

ASIA...Page 16

Normal Kids
They are show business royalty but a year after their father 's death, they seem like normal kids.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

Micronesian presidents, governors open 3-day summit today

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Three presidents and six governors from around the region are on Saipan for the 13th Micronesian Chief Executives Summit, which opens today at the Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan.

Along with about a hundred other delegates from the region, the United States and Japan, these leaders will discuss common concerns and solutions on a host of issues that include healthcare, tourism, military buildup and alternative energy.

"Everything is set for the summit's opening. The Orga-

See MICRONESIAN on Page 4

StayWell temporarily suspends govt health insurance coverage

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

StayWell Insurance has temporarily suspended health insurance coverage for CNMI government employees because it has so far not received allotment payments for the June 18 payday. Employees of nine government agencies are, however, exempted from the suspension.

See STAYWELL on Page 4

Senate takes up $4M loan bill for govt payroll

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A bill seeking to allow the Marianas Public Land Trust to extend a $4 million loan to the central government for payroll and other expenses will be up for amendment in today's Senate session.

See SENATE on Page 4

Ernest is new chief prosecutor

Ernest

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham appointed assistant attorney general Michael L. Ernest yesterday to be the new chief prosecutor.

Buckingham said that Ernest, one of the most diligent and

See ERNEST on Page 4

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

WORKPLACE READINESS
Floyd Masga, right, of the Northern Marianas College's Community Development Institute, gives young people a lecture on workplace readiness aspects that include work ethics, telephone etiquette and customer service as part of the Workforce Investment Agency's 2010 Summer Youth Employment Training Program student orientation at the American Memorial Park Theater in Garapan yesterday.

Juvenile detainees failed to get educational sessions in 5 months. **PAGE 2**
Technical issues, lack of funds snag opening of new EMO center. **PAGE 5**

Local

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Juvenile detainees failed to have educational sessions in 5 months

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Juveniles at the Kagman Detention Center did not receive educational sessions for more than five months due to the unavailability of instructors from the Public School System.

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin Faisao confirmed that since Joe Limes' contract expired in September last year and up to February 2010, PSS provided no replacement to handle the education sessions at the juvenile center.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan has yet to respond to *Saipan Tribune*'s e-mail and was unavailable for comments when contacted several times yesterday.

However, Board of Education member Herman T. Guerrero denied Faisao's claim and said that PSS hired retired teacher Ambrose Bennett for this purpose.

"That's not true. PSS is providing the needed services," he said yesterday.

Guerrero acknowledged, however, that assigning teachers to the juvenile detention unit has become a problem since PSS prioritizes its students in public schools.

"When it comes to teachers, our schools come first. But it doesn't mean we're not providing the services to these juveniles," he said.

PSS is responsible for providing learning sessions to juveniles at the center. It is supposed to send teachers there everyday and each detainee must receive at least six hours of instructional learning sessions five days a week.

Saipan Tribune learned that many parents have sought the help of DCCA to address the lack of instruction at the center. The Juvenile Detention Center is under DCCA. On June 7, DCCA asked to meet with PSS to address the issue.

A check with the center showed that Bennett has been assigned to hold educational sessions there.

Faisao pointed out, though, that Bennett only started working at the center in March.

"Yes, Mr. Bennett is now the assigned teacher to provide the service. However, the department is still concerned that the services rendered are inadequate, which must be six hours daily and not four hours daily," Faisao said.

"DCCA strongly believes that children and youth involved in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, like all children, deserve a quality education that allows them to develop the skills and competencies necessary for them to become productive adults. Regrettably, this is uncommonly the case. Many of these children and youth leave school without a regular diploma, and still others graduate without the academic skills and social-emotional competencies that constitute 21st century learning skills. DCCA has recognized these poor outcomes and the need for greater cross-system collaboration to correct these negative outcomes," Faisao told Sablan in a letter.

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Tinian nurses' payroll now up to date

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

All 11 Tinian Health Center nurses whose salaries were delayed by two pay periods have finally received their full wages, according to the center's resident director, Raymond T. Dela Cruz.

This came about after Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed into law a local house bill that allocated $42,000 for the delayed wages of the nurses employed by private manpower agency Saipan Employment Agency and Services.

In a statement yesterday, Dela Cruz said all nurses at the center and staffers are now receiving their salaries on time.

"Yes, the nurses and medical ancillary staff are up to date on their payroll by SEAS," he said.

Saipan Tribune earlier disclosed that 11 nurses and other staff were not being paid their salaries on Tinian for two pay periods between April 25 and May 22, 2010.

This comes at a time when 11 other nurses and staffers at the Rota Health Center are still awaiting the full payment of their salaries.

All 22 medical personnel on Tinian and Rota are employed by SEAS.

The Tinian Local Law 17-2 also gave $20,000 to the Tinian Municipal Scholarship fund and $20,000 for the monthly subsistence allowance of Tinian patients on dialysis or those with cancer, multiple sclerosis, post cervical, and vascular accidents.

The Tinian Health Center was recently the subject of complaints by some residents due to the absence of a physician when its lone doctor went on vacation.

Yesterday, Dela Cruz said that Dr. Priyawathan Wijay is back on island. "Yes, the physician returned to work from his emergency leave on May 27, 2010."

During the absence of the physician, THC allowed its physician assistant and a midlevel provider to handle the doctor's tasks. These individuals were described by the THC official as very capable to do the tasks.

In case of serious illnesses, the Commonwealth Health Center on Saipan is always on standby for any consultation or call from the Tinian Health Center.

Tinian residents have earlier expressed frustration with the situation at their health center where there is not enough doctors or no doctor at all. The center has had only one designated physician for several years now. Funding is also a major concern in the center's efforts to bring in more doctors.

Indigenous group wants meeting with Saipan lawmakers

First Senate public hearing on status of alien workers tonight

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Indigenous Rights Movement Core Group chair Ignacio "Ike" DLG. Demapan wants to meet with Saipan lawmakers to discuss a U.S. Department of the Interior report recommending improved status for long-term foreign workers in the CNMI.

"We understand that members of the local delegation may be quite occupied with their busy schedule; however, considering the urgency of this matter, we need to address them at the earliest possible time," Demapan said in a June 14 letter to Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation chair Rep. Ray A. Tebuteb (R-Saipan).

Tebuteb told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the delegation will decide on Demapan's request during the delegation session on Thursday.

Demapan, who is also the resident executive director of the Indigenous Affairs Office, was one of the organizers of the indigenous rally on May 29 to drum up strong opposition to the Interior report to the U.S. Congress.

The Fitial administration wants a referendum on the immigration status of long-term foreign workers in the CNMI, but the Legislature has yet to introduce a measure to put the issue on the November ballot.

Senate public hearings

The Senate begins tonight its series of public hearings to gauge public opinion and recommendations for future long-term status of guest workers in the CNMI.

The first of the seven public hearings will be held tonight at Koblerville Elementary School, from 6pm to 9pm.

Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), chairman of the Senate Committee on Federal Relations and Independent Agencies, is urging community members to attend the public hearings.

The public hearings will have at least five topics of discussion: The Interior's recommendation to grant long-term status to alien workers who have been legally residing in the CNMI for at least five years; alternative recommendations for long-term status of guest workers; future CNMI labor needs; social impacts on indigenous population; and other matters related to the CNMI guest worker population.

Besides the June 23 hearing, Hofschneider's committee also scheduled six other hearings: June 30 (Saipan); July 7 (Saipan); July 14 (Tinian); July 21 (Rota); July 28 (Saipan); and July 30 (Saipan).

PSS defends paying for two finance officers

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The hiring of finance director Richard Waldo on Monday has resulted in the Public School System now paying for two finance officers but a Board of Education official justified this by saying the two will be doing different work.

Board of Education member Herman T. Guerrero said that Waldo will be handling the day-to-day finance side of PSS while financial consultant Ed Tenorio will be handling a special project and meeting with lawmakers.

"For me it's justifiable that the commissioner made that decision. [Ed] is just a consultant for certain things and his functions and duties are very different from the finance director. He was hired to complete the five-year plan and make the presentations to the Legislature. [Ed] has the background to do those things being the former Office of Management and Budget chief," Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune*.

PSS hired Tenorio in 2009 to the tune of $60,000 per annum and his one-year contract was extended to December 2010. Waldo, meantime, is in the books for $65,000 a year.

Guerrero pointed out that Tenorio's capability to work and lobby with the Legislature on PSS' budget is vital, considering that the board is fighting for the survival of public schools.

Among Waldo's first tasks, on the other hand, is to review the PSS audit report and its findings, then recommend corrective measures, said Guerrero.

Both positions, approved by the Board of Education at the recommendation of Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan, are paid using local funds.

Sablan has yet to respond to this reporter's e-mail inquiry as of press time yesterday.

In a press release issued Monday, PSS said that Waldo will be working directly with Tenorio and federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh to realize and implement PSS' plans.

Lawyer Joseph Arriola's sentencing today

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Joseph Aldan Arriola will be sentenced today, Wednesday, for stealing over $600,000 from a deceased's estate.

Arriola's sentencing was set for 10am, but U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge Consuelo B. Marshall changed it yesterday to 8am.

Arriola is currently in the custody of his third-party custodian, press secretary Angel Demapan. The two are half-brothers.

Marshall allowed Arriola's temporary release on June 9, in consideration of the serious illness of his mother.

Arriola, a lawyer, pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and one count of wire fraud as part of a plea agreement with the U.S. government.

Court-appointed counsel Steven Pixley is representing Arriola in the case.

Arriola was hired as lawyer for the Kaipat estate's then administrator, Luis Pelisamen. Arriola and Pelisamen set up an account in a bank where they deposited the estate's $1.37 million.

The U.S. government said Arriola and Pelisamen helped themselves to the money.

Arriola has admitted to making unauthorized withdrawal of funds from the estate in violation of a Superior Court order.

Pelisamen was also charged and subsequently sentenced to five years in prison.

The judge handling the case, Marshall, is a senior judge for the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. She is a 2007 recipient of the California Women Lawyers' 14th Annual Distinguished Jurist Award. Marshall has reportedly inspired many for being the first woman to have been hired as a deputy Los Angeles City attorney and the first woman to serve as chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California.

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NAVFAC Marianas recognized for Acquisition Excellence

SANTA RITA, Guam—U.S. Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas was among the distinguished list of Navy acquisition teams honored with Department of the Navy Acquisition Excellence awards for improving Department of Defense acquisition processes, during a ceremony June 14 in Washington, D.C. hosted by the Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus.

NAVFAC Marianas received a Field Acquisition Activity award for its work in preparing for the Guam Military Buildup. The command was recognized for its outstanding resource management, enhanced competition methods, personnel development and retention, small business support and achievements, and its demonstration of excellence in bringing supplies and services to the customer at the right place and the right time.

"During the 2008 fiscal year, we experienced an enormous workload surge executing 710 actions and more than $320 million in obligations," said NAVFAC Marianas Director of Acquisition, Andy Wall. "This is a 24 percent jump in comparison to the previous year, and is anticipated to increase over the next several years."

NAVFAC Marianas' acquisition team managed large initiatives such as joint-regionalization, surges in military construction projects, and on-going planning for the heavy workload anticipated in the Guam Military Buildup. All the while, it maintained its focus on a proactive push to encourage acquisition personnel to develop their skills.

"Our acquisition team is a shining example of the best and the brightest," said Capt. Peter Lynch, NAVFAC Marianas commanding officer. "This is a dynamic group that will be vital to our acquisition efforts for current military construction requirements and for the Guam Military Buildup. I am confident that their "Can-Do" spirit will continue to keep us in this league of top performers."

NAVFAC Marianas maintains a vibrant internship program with approximately 46 contract specialist interns, and provides tremendous training and skills-enhancement opportunities toward the development of top performers. ***(PR)***

MC2 (AW) KEVIN O'BRIEN

NAVFAC Marianas Director of Acquisition Andy Wall, left, and NAVFAC Marianas Commanding Officer Capt. Peter S. Lynch, center, accept the Field Acquisition Activity award from Navy Secretary Ray Mabus during a ceremony June 14 at the Pentagon.

STAYWELL

From Page 1

The government delayed the release of paychecks for most employees on Friday due to insufficient funds. Most government employees received their paychecks on Monday after the Commonwealth Development Authority remitted $1.9 million to the general fund.

Eric Plinske, StayWell Saipan branch manager, told *Saipan Tribune* last night that health insurance coverage will resume once payments are made.

He said the temporary suspension of coverage will cover the two weeks prior to the June 18, 2010, payday and onwards until payment is made.

But press secretary Angel Demapan said it is only a matter of not being able to process any electronic allotments for the June 18 payroll. The Department of Finance issued only paper checks.

"All government employees were notified that since their third-party allotments were not deducted, each employee was responsible to physically make payments to their respective financial institutions and any other office that they have payments due to," Demapan said in an e-mail response to inquiries.

The government's Group Health Insurance Program is with Aetna Insurance. Government employees, however, have the option of choosing their own insurance coverage.

"Thus, each employee is responsible to satisfy their obligations when direct allotments fail to be processed. The electronic allotments that were previously processed to Staywell are merely authorizations from employees to make their payments, through deduction from their payroll, in the form of an automatic bill payment. Staywell payments are not a bill to the government," Demapan said.

Demapan said he is not aware at this point of any notice from the government that future allotments for health insurance coverage will not be made.

The press secretary urged every government employee who was paid through paper checks to fulfill their obligations accordingly.

Plinske said there are nine independent government agencies whose allotments have not been suspended.

These include the Public School System, the Commonwealth Ports Authority, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Northern Marianas College, the Northern Marianas Housing Corp., the NMI Retirement Fund, the Northern Marianas Legal Services, the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission, and CDA.

Government employees affected by the temporary suspension of the health insurance coverage are asked to immediately contact the StayWell office at 323-4260 to 62, or stop by the StayWell Saipan office at the Flame Tree Terrace Building in Lower Capital Hill.

MICRONESIAN

From Page 1

nizational Committee has been working tirelessly to ensure that the CNMI will host a successful and fruitful summit for our region's chief executives," press secretary Angel Demapan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's welcoming remarks this morning will be "focused on a renewed call to action to further strengthen the regional partnerships that have been established through the summit," said Demapan.

"Governor Fitial will continue to push for a safer, cleaner and healthier region in Micronesia," he added.

The eight other Micronesian chief executives are also expected to deliver their remarks in the opening ceremonies.

"We are excited to host this year's delegates, guests and participants. We encourage everyone in the Commonwealth to promote the pristine beauty and warm hospitality of our islands," the press secretary said.

Federated States of Micronesia President Manny Mori was among the chief executives who arrived ahead of the others yesterday, while the rest are expected to arrive last night and this morning.

Besides Mori, the other dignitaries who arrived earlier than most include Kosrae Lt. Gov. Tosie William and Palau Minister Harry Fritz, representing Palau President Johnson Toribiong. Yap Gov. Sebastian Anefal will arrive this morning.

"All other chief executives are expected [Tuesday] evening between 5:45pm and 9pm. There are about 80 participants registered already. However, we are preparing to accommodate between 100-150, to include the Cabinet and the CNMI Legislature," Demapan said.

The summit brings together the presidents of the FSM, Palau and the Marshall Islands, as well as the governors of the CNMI, Guam, Pohnpei, Kosrae, Chuuk and Yap.

Also among the summit participants are five delegates from Japan and Le Hung, consul general of Vietnam in San Francisco.

Committee presentations will start this afternoon. The summit will wrap up on Friday with the signing of the 13th Joint Communique and closing remarks of the regional chief executives.

SENATE

From Page 1

Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) said yesterday the Senate wants to make sure that the bill is not in violation of Article X of the NMI Constitution's provision on public indebtedness.

"We also asked for clarification whether it's a loan or not," Manglona told *Saipan Tribune.*

Manglona was among the lawmakers who met with Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos and MPLT officials on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon.

MPLT board vice chair Alvaro Santos, in a separate phone interview, said MPLT has concerns on the wordings or language of the bill, which the House of Representatives passed on Friday.

Santos, who was also in the meeting along with other MPLT trustees, said MPLT was glad to have a meeting with lawmakers to address concerns about the bill.

"We're able to iron out some of the misunderstandings, the nebulous, ambiguous language, and the intent of the bill. We pretty much cleared up things. We left the meeting with the feeling that most, if not all ambiguities were taken cared of. …It was a good meeting," Santos said.

He said the Senate also has concerns about the language and the legality of the bill.

Rep. Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan), author of House Bill 17-78, HD1, said it is now in the hands of the Senate.

"This is why we have a session on Friday, to catch any amendments," he said.

Santos said MPLT hopes that the Senate will incorporate suggested changes to the bill's language.

Once the Senate passes the bill, it goes back to the House, which will hold another session on Friday.

Inos earlier said the bill will be immediately signed into law once it reaches the governor's desk.

Santos said once it becomes law, MPLT will sign a memorandum of understanding with the government on what he calls an "investment."

"From the standpoint of MPLT, this is an investment, not a loan… Our portfolio is fully invested," he said, adding that MPLT supports the concept of the bill.

The House passed HB 17-78, HD1 shortly after Inos—as acting governor on Friday—met with lawmakers.

Inos asked both MPLT and the Commonwealth Development Authority to provide $4 million each to the central government to help pay for government employees' salaries and pay the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

MPLT agreed to extend a loan but asked that it be done through legislation.

Yumul's bill amends Public Law 16-7, the same law that extended a $3.4 million loan to the CUC in 2008 to put a stop to the rolling blackouts.

The bill earmarks future MPLT general fund distributions amounting to $4 million to include the anticipated constitutionally mandated distributions for future fiscal years until the $4 million debt plus accrued interest is paid in full.

The government had insufficient funds to pay most government wages on June 18. CDA remitted $1.9 million to the central government on Monday, allowing for the paychecks to be released that same day.

For future payrolls, the government is looking at other reprogrammed or identified funds, including those from MPLT, CDA and Department of Public Lands, which it also tapped for CUC utility payments.

ERNEST

From Page 1

dedicated people in the Office of the Attorney General, will take on his new role on Monday.

"He has led improvements to our contract management process and has guided an improved consumer protection effort. His organization and leadership skills will be a great fit for the Criminal Division," he said.

Ernest has recently been working in both civil and criminal areas. As CNMI consumer counsel, he sued several stores on Saipan and Tinian for selling expired items without displaying notices that the products have expired, among other violations of the Consumer Protection Act.

Prior to joining the OAG, Ernest served as Senate legal counsel for five years.

Rosemond B. Santos resigned as chief prosecutor last Friday. Assistant attorney general Brian Gallagher is currently the acting chief prosecutor.

Buckingham disclosed that their current caseload includes over 60 percent of very old cases—a minimum of two years to periods of many years without resolution.

"We need to do better for our victims and for the community at large," he said. "We must always be mindful of our duties to victims of crime. There is an old expression that 'justice delayed is justice denied.'"

Buckingham said he wants Ernest to formulate a new strategy for these cases.

After a crime is committed, Buckingham noted, there is pressure to solve the crime. "This can be described as a rush for justice and closure. We need to be careful that this rush doesn't mean we arrest quickly but prosecute very slowly," he said.

With more than 60 percent of current cases being over two years old, Buckingham said they need to approach case management differently.

The goal, he said, is to work closely with the Department of Public Safety to ensure that the facts necessary to move a case forward are fully prepared.

"This means going through the case slowly and thoroughly to be sure we have the right person and the evidence to back up the conclusion that a particular person committed the crime," he said.

Buckingham said offers also need to be provided earlier in the process so a defendant can choose to accept a "non-trial disposition" or proceed to trial.

"By slowing down the early stages to complete this work, the prosecution can then proceed to bring the case to trial or a non-trial disposition within months, rather than years," he said.

There are four prosecutors at the Criminal Division at present, but Buckingham said two more will be joining them in a few weeks.

Technical issues, lack of funds snag opening of new EMO center

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Construction work on the new CNMI Emergency Operations Center on Capital Hill was completed in April or May this year, but it is not ready yet for occupancy due to minor technical matters and a lack of funding for furniture.

Mark Pangelinan, Emergency Management Office deputy director, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the EOC building is done but there are still some issues with the project's engineer, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

He said GPPC Inc., the contractor for the $2.8 million project, is ironing out the paperwork with the U.S. Army Corps.

" It should be done soon," he said.

Pangelinan said he does not have a tentative date for the completion of the project because he needs to find out whether GPPC Inc. has already complied with the Army Corps's requirements.

"It's technical matter. They [GPPC and U.S. Army Corps] need to finalize it and close it out. Once that's done, then it should be considered done," he said.

Pangelinan said the original target completion date was March 2009 but there were several delays.

In March 2009, GPPC asked for a five-month extension to complete the project, reportedly due to change orders and delays caused by bad weather in 2008.

Once completed, the EOC will provide the Commonwealth with a state-of-the-art command and control center to better address both man-made and natural disasters.

The groundbreaking ceremony for the EOC was held on April 11, 2008.

Pangelinan said not everyone at the EMO would be transferring to the new building.

"We're only transferring the communications portion, the dispatchers. The emergency center will be there," he said.

He said the director, himself, the planning section, seismic and the logistics will still occupy the old EMO building on Capital Hill.

He said the other problem they have right now is the lack of funding for the furniture and the fixtures. "We don't have any funding."

The deputy director said the Federal Emergency Management Agency awarded EMO $4 million for the design and construction of the EOC, plus some equipment.

He said they are currently working closely with the Department of Homeland Security to identify funding for furniture and fixtures.

Canadian dentist sues Dental Care

Clinic's lawyer: Plaintiff assaulted director/manager

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Canadian dentist sued Dental Care and its owners yesterday in federal court for terminating her and for allegedly failing to make good on its promises.

Dr. Masha Maxim sued Dental Care Corp. and its directors/managers Rod Stewart and Scot Thompson for bad faith termination, breach of employment contract, and breach of covenant of good faith and fair dealings.

Saipan Tribune called Dental Care late afternoon yesterday, but no one was available to comment.

Maxim, represented in court by lawyer Joey P. San Nicolas, wants Dental Care to pay her damages, sanctions, and penalties.

San Nicolas stated that under a written employment contract signed in March 2009, Maxim was hired as a dentist for a term of two years, expiring in February 2011.

Although the contract stated that Maxim was to receive a salary of $60,000 per year, San Nicolas said that Stewart and Thompson in fact agreed to and compensated her a salary of $100,000 per year plus $1,000 a month in living expenses.

San Nicolas said Maxim received half of her salary in cash and the other half through check.

The lawyer said his client, on several occasions, complained to Stewart and Thompson about the need to accurately report her income to the CNMI Revenue and Taxation.

However, San Nicolas said, Stewart and Thompson failed to provide Revenue and Taxation with her true record of income.

San Nicolas said prior to Maxim's employ at Dental Care, Stewart and Thompson advised her that she would be entitled to a share of the clinic's profits after her first year.

After the first year, Maxim inquired about the offer of sharing, but Stewart and Thompson allegedly told her she did not qualify because of a below average performance.

San Nicolas said the defendants, who are not dentists, and other dental assistants made the evaluation.

He said that before being employed at Dental Care, Maxim told the clinic that she could not provide orthodontic services since that is outside the scope of her practice.

San Nicolas said upon learning that a dental assistant was delivering orthodontic services at Dental Care, Maxim objected.

He said that, on May 24, 2010, Maxim informed Dental Care she would not renew her contract in February 2011.

On the same day, San Nicolas said, Maxim was given a letter explaining Dental Care's acceptance of her resignation and that her plane ticket would be available on May 31, 2010.

Four days later, Maxim submitted a letter stating that she did not resign.

On May 31, 2010, Dental Care, through its attorney, informed San Nicolas that Maxim was terminated for cause effective May 24, 2010, for assaulting Thomson.

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$10 charge for use of lots along July 4 parade route

A $10 fee will be charged to spectators who will set up tents on public land along the July 4th parade route and a permit will be issued to make sure that only those who have paid the fee are allowed to set up tents.

This will be the first time that such a fee will be charged.

According to the Department of Lands & Natural Resources' Division of Parks & Recreation and the Department of Public Lands, individuals, families, or groups will not be allowed to set up tents or use public lands without a temporary permit.

Temporary permit applications are available at the As Perdido office of the Division of Parks and Recreation. The fee must be paid at the Department of Public Lands Office, Finance section in the Joeten Dandan Commercial Center, and the receipt brought back to the Division of Parks & Recreation Office in As Perdido, where a permit will be issued to the applicant.

The last date to apply for a spot is July 2, 2010, at 4:30pm and spots are issued on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Public Law 11-106 gives DLNR Parks and Recreation the authority to establish "user" fees for all public parks and beaches that are maintained by the Division.

Officers will be on hand on July 3 and 4 to ensure that only individuals who have a temporary permit are occupying space, according to DLNR and DPL. ***(PR)***

Two NMC students, four others are awarded PREL teacher scholarships

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Alex Coffin

Lisa Emwalu

Jennifer Hainrick

Verna Reyes

Beverly Wabol

Angelina Yobech

Two students from Saipan are among the six Pacific islanders that were awarded Pacific Teacher Scholarships for school year 2010-2011 by the Pacific Resources for Education and Learning.

Verna Lynn Reyes is taking up a master's degree in education while Angelina N. Yobech is pursuing a bachelor's degree. Both are studying at the Northern Marianas College.

Reyes became a volunteer tutor at Koblerville High School after graduating from Saipan Southern High School. She subsequently became the school librarian and later joined the school's Special Education program. Reyes aspires to continue teaching grade school students.

Yobech served as a full-time volunteer with a nonprofit organization and served as a counselor and substitute teacher at Yap High School in 1990 before she was moved to Guam. Later, she became a certified trainer of the MotheRead/FatheRead program on Saipan and is now a volunteer at the Juvenile Detention Unit of the Division of Youth Services. Yobech hopes to teach language arts and social studies to middle school students.

The other scholarship recipients are Alexander Edward Coffin of American Samoa; Lisa E. Emwalu of Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia; Jennifer I. Hainrick of Pohnpei, FSM; and Beverly T. Wabol of Kosrae, FSM.

The six scholars join 33 aspiring teachers to date that have been awarded the same scholarship.

The Pacific Teacher Scholarship Fund was established in 2004 to provide financial support that ranges from $750 to $1,000 to Pacific Islander students who pursue a career in education in the U.S.-affiliated Pacific. It was founded by PREL as a means to increase the number of qualified teachers in the region that will provide greater educational opportunities for children in the Pacific.

Fisheries scientists to tackle catch limits, others in U.S. Pacific areas

The group of scientists who advises the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council will meet on June 22-24, 2010, in Honolulu to make decisions that could have significant impact on the amount of fish that fishermen can catch in the U.S. Pacific Islands, including the CNMI.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee will consider methods to set annual catch limits, or ACLs, for fish species caught in the exclusive economic zone waters of the Western Pacific Region, which span 3 to 200 miles offshore of Hawaii, American Samoa and Guam and 0 to 200 miles offshore of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and eight U.S. Pacific remote islands areas.

The need to set ACL for all species in federal fisheries (both targeted and non-targeted stocks) by 2011 was established by Congress in the 2006 reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

Species that are exempt are those managed internationally and those that are considered ecosystem species, i.e., species that are not caught or targeted.

The biggest challenge for the scientists is to meet these objectives for the thousands of fish species that are part of the coral reef ecosystems of the U.S. Pacific Islands, especially as the scientific data on the vast majority of these species is limited or lacking. Another hurdle is addressing species that inhabit waters that fall under the jurisdiction of both the federal government and the state/ territorial government.

Currently, there are two fisheries for which ACLs have been set: The main Hawaiian Islands bottomfish fishery, which is managed jointly by the federal government and the State of Hawaii, and the longline caught bigeye tuna fishery, which is managed by the federal government consistent with the measures of international regional fishery management organizations, such as the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.

Other major agenda items to be considered by the SSC and the council include Hawaii longline catch limit for bigeye tuna and trip catch limit for swordfish, Hawaii bottomfish essential fish habitat and total allowable catch, American Samoa longline limited entry program, marine national monuments, aquaculture management and WCPFC transshipment measures. ***(PR)***

Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC, Division 9, §9910, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees/Workers' Compensation Commission/Group Health & Life Insurance Trust Fund, are hereby giving notice that the Board of Trustees will hold its Special meeting Thursday, June 24, 2010 at 12:45 p.m. at the NMI Retirement Fund Conference Room, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call
C. Adoption of Agenda
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. OLD BUSINESS
A. RFP 10-002 Investment Consultant
IV. NEW BUSINESS
A. Investment Manager
B. Fiscal Analysts
C. Proposed Amendment to GHIP Regulations
D. Fund Rules and Regulations Certification and Adoption
V. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VI. MISCELLANEOUS
A. Announcements
B. Next Meeting
C. Adjournment

/s/ SIXTO K. IGISOMAR
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING AGENCY
Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center
P.O. Box 501133 Chalan Kanoa • Saipan, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 664 4550 • Fax: (670) 664 4560

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, the Criminal Justice Planning Agency hereby giving notice that the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Council for the Improvement of the Criminal Justice System, also known as the CJPA *Supervisory Council* will hold a Special Meeting on **Monday, June 28, 2010 from 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. at the Atrium Conference Room, Guma Hustisia, Susupe (Judicial Complex) Saipan, MP 96950.**

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

IV. NEW BUSINESS
a. Introduction of New Members
b. Updates from Criminal Justice Planning Agency, *Jerome Ierome, Executive Director*
c. New Member Training
1. Review and Approval of Sub-grant Applications for Victims of Crime Act *(VOCA) FY09 Remaining Funds):*
2. Karidat Social Services - Victim Advocacy Program
3. Community Guidance Center (CGC) - Victims of Crime Act Program
d. Review of FY2010 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Solicitation

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Should you need more information, please call the CJPA at 664-4550-7.

/s/Mr. Ignacio Aquiningoc
Chairperson
CJPA Supervisory Council

/s/Mr. Jerome I. Ierome
Executive Director
Criminal Justice Planning Agency

Publication of this notice was paid for with federal funds made possible by Grant# 2009-DJ-BX 0421, Office of Justice Program, U.S. Department of Justice.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

NOTICE TO ALL CUC CUSTOMERS

Effective July 1, 2010, the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) will no longer accept American Express (AMEX) credit cards as a form of payment. Accordingly, CUC will cease all authorized automatic debits from AMEX credit cards for account payments as of the effective date.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

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'More talk to drive down domestic, sexual violence'

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

The Rotary Club of Saipan awards vocational scholarships worth $500 each to three recently graduated high school students: Jonathan Norita, right, Ken Alvarado, left, and Centennial Sapenang, not shown in photo.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The executive director of the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence highlighted the need to discuss the realities of domestic and sexual violence to educate more people in the community during yesterday's Rotary Club of Saipan meeting at Hyatt Regency's Giovanni's.

Maise Tenorio addressed the Rotarians and talked about the coalition and what it does to deal with the issue of domestic and sexual violence in the community.

A non-governmental and non-profit organization, the coalition is made up of different programs and agencies in the CNMI that aim to promote, nourish and sustain a collective movement against violence.

Tenorio said that members of their organization are direct service providers that offer assistance directly to victims of violence in the CNMI.

As a collective movement, Tenorio said they want to invite others to the movement to help implement their mission.

Tenorio said the coalition does community outreach, which helps educate the community about domestic violence and sexual assault and the responsibilities of each member of the community. The public education training also involves addressing organizations like Rotary Club.

The coalition also works with federal and local policymakers by providing them relevant information about the CNMI that aids in drafting policies and laws and allows equitable funding for the CNMI and other territories.

Tenorio said the "extremely diverse" cultural background of the CNMI poses a problem as other members of the community become "isolated" or might be forced to remain silent about the issue because of a lack of access to information and help.

Tenorio said that sexual assault is "such an underreported crime and extremely difficult to talk about."

Studies show that Asians and Pacific Islanders are the least likely to report sexual assault and that only 20 percent of sexual assault cases are reported. There is a chance that the number of those who report this crime in the CNMI is lower because of what the studies show, she said.

"The more we talk about the issues, the more the information is out there," she emphasized.

If you know anyone who needs help or if you want to be involved with the cause, contact the coalition hotline at 234-5100.

Vocational scholars

Also during the meeting, the Rotary Club of Saipan awarded vocational scholarships worth $500 each to three recently graduated high school students.

Jonathan Norita and Ken Alvarado expressed their gratitude to the Rotary as they accepted their checks yesterday.

Norita, a graduate of Kagman High School, wants to pursue Criminal Justice. Alvarado plans to take up math courses at Northern Marianas College. He graduated from Saipan Southern High School and is also a member of Pacific Winds Band.

The third recipient, Centennial Sapenang of Marianas High School, was not present at the awarding ceremony.

DVD4Vets update

At the Rotary meeting yesterday, Rotarian Mike Tripp announced that there are now four locations that accept DVD and monetary donations for the DVDs4Vets drive: Megabyte, Hyatt Regency, Ernst & Young, and Joeten Susupe.

DVDs4Vets is a Web site that aims to give veterans DVDs and players. It accepts DVDs and portable DVD players as donations to be distributed to various Veterans Affairs facilities.

According to Tripp, over $500 of donations pledged by individual Rotarians have been received to date. The number of received DVD donations has yet to be determined as of yesterday's meeting.

Tripp said he has been communicating with the people behind the DVDs4Vets Web site. "They're very excited about another Rotary Club helping their cause," he said.

He also discussed with them potential issues concerning the shipping of DVD donations. Tripp said he already inquired with the post office and was told that the DVDs can be shipped using media mail rates.

On Thursday morning, Tripp will talk on radio station KZMI to promote the DVD drive and the Rotary in general.

ATTENTION

CNMI Government Employees with StayWell Insurance

NOTICE of SUSPENSION

Because we have not received your allotment payment for payday June 18, 2010, we have temporarily suspended your health insurance coverage. This notice is necessary because the government has indicated that future allotments will not be made and StayWell will not be paid for your insurance coverage. To bring your insurance coverage current, you must contact the StayWell office immediately. Please contact us at 323-4260/61/62, or stop by our StayWell Saipan office located at the Flame Tree Terrace Building in Lower Capitol Hill.

ALLOTMENTS FROM THE FOLLOWING DEPARTMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN SUSPENDED:

Public School System
Commonwealth Ports Authority
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Northern Marianas College
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation
Northern Marianas Retirement Fund
Northern Marianas Legal Services
Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission
Commonwealth Development Authority

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MELL SENTOSA	039E	6/12 Sat	6/10 Thu	6/10 Thu	6/8 Tue	6/5 Sat	6/18 Fri	6/14 Mon	6/13 Sun	6/6 Sun	6/6 Sun	6/14 Mon	6/18 Fri	6/20 Sun	6/22 Tue
MELL SPRINGLEAF	005E	6/19 Sat	6/17 Thu	6/17 Thu	6/15 Tue	6/12 Sat	6/25 Fri	6/21 Mon	6/20 Sun	6/13 Sun	6/13 Sun	6/21 Mon	6/25 Fri	6/27 Sun	6/29 Tue
MELL SILOSO	006E	6/26 Sat	6/24 Thu	6/24 Thu	6/22 Tue	6/19 Sat	7/2 Fri	6/28 Mon	6/27 Sun	6/20 Sun	6/20 Sun	6/28 Mon	7/2 Fri	7/4 Sun	7/6 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	040E	7/3 Sat	7/1 Thu	7/1 Thu	6/29 Tue	6/26 Sat	7/9 Fri	7/5 Mon	7/4 Sun	6/27 Sun	6/27 Sun	7/5 Mon	7/9 Fri	7/11 Sun	7/13 Tue
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MELL SILOSO	007E	7/17 Sat	7/15 Thu	7/15 Thu	7/13 Tue	7/10 Sat	7/23 Fri	7/19 Mon	7/18 Sun	7/11 Sun	7/11 Sun	7/19 Mon	7/23 Fri	7/25 Sun	7/27 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA Davao	ETA GenSan	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SENTOSA	039E	6/26 Sat	6/27 Sun	6/27 Sun	6/29 Tue	6/30 Wed	7/2 Fri	7/4 Sun	SKIP	7/9 Fri	7/10 Sat	7/15 Thu	8/3 Tue	7/18 Sun	7/14 Wed
MELL SPRINGLEAF	005E	7/3 Sat	7/4 Sun	7/4 Sun	SKIP	7/7 Wed	7/9 Fri	7/11 Sun	SKIP	7/16 Fri	7/17 Sat	7/22 Thu	8/10 Tue	7/25 Sun	7/21 Wed
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MELL SENTOSA	040E	7/17 Sat	7/18 Sun	7/18 Sun	SKIP	7/21 Wed	7/23 Fri	7/25 Sun	SKIP	7/30 Fri	7/31 Sat	8/5 Thu	8/24 Tue	8/8 Sun	8/4 Wed
MELL SPRINGLEAF	006E	7/24 Sat	7/25 Sun	7/25 Sun	7/25 Sun	7/28 Wed	7/30 Fri	8/1 Sun	SKIP	8/6 Fri	8/7 Sat	8/12 Thu	8/31 Tue	8/15 Sun	8/11 Wed
MELL SILOSO	007E	7/31 Sat	8/1 Sun	8/1 Sun	7/25 Sun	8/4 Wed	8/6 Fri	8/8 Sun	SKIP	8/13 Fri	8/14 Sat	8/19 Thu	9/7 Tue	8/22 Sun	8/18 Wed

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INVITATION FOR BID
NMHC IFB2010-006

(This ad is paid for by NMHC with NSP1 funds)

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, hereby give notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids from NMHC's List of Approved Contractors for the Supply and Installation of Zinc-Coated Chain-Link Fences and Supply and Installation of Aluminum Accordion Typhoon Shutters (Windows and Doors) For NMHC's Seven (7) NSP-Project Units located in Kagman and Dandan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package consisting of Scope of Work and Bid Documents will be available on or after Monday, June 21, 2010, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations; however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference" as amended by Public Law 15-95 and further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

A pre-bid conference will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 7, 2010, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan and all interested bidders will be given the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the required work and ask questions regarding the project. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder. Any further questions shall be in writing and addressed to Ms. Jocelyn Kaipat, Acting Procurement Officer, via fax at (670) 234-9021 or e-mailed to the following address: admin@nmhc.gov.mp.

Sealed Bids must be marked "NMHC IFB2010-006 Supply and Installation of Zinc-Coated Chain-Link Fences and Supply and Installation of Aluminum Accordion Typhoon Shutters (Windows and Doors)." An original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director, Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, Friday, July 16, 2010. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid. Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:30 a.m. local time, July 16, 2010.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00), a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be in the form of a Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "NMHC IFB 2010-006." Surety companies must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the NMIAC §70.30.3.301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment Bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000. Pursuant to Governor's Directive 251 dated March 15, 2006, bidders are required to include a Clearance from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner with respect to the financial bonding capability of the bidders' chosen Surety. In addition, the contractor will be required to deliver a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments or other bond obligations) exceeded the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is Ninety (90) calendar days upon issuance of an official written Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for the delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at One Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars (US$125.00) per calendar day.

NMHC hereby notifies bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest. All proposals will become the property of the Government.

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

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Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

The Commonwealth Development Authority will auction the following items on Friday, July 23, 2010 at 2p.m. at the CDA Office Conference Room.

- **Washer:** (1) Coin Operated, Whirlpool
  Model: CA2751XYWO, SN: CH2155987
  Located: Pacific Gardenia Hotel
- **Dryer:** (2) Coin Operated, Speed Queen Commercial
  Model: EE5111WF, SN: S6491205YMU
  Located: Pacific Gardenia Hotel
- **Safe:** (1) Hase
  Dimensions: H71"x W41"x D25"
  Located: CDA Office
- **Signs:** Poker signs
  Located: CDA Office

The auction shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. The items are being sold **"AS IS"** and **"WHERE IS";**
2. The items are being sold **WITHOUT WARRANTY** of any type;
3. The public auction will be held at the **CDA Conference Room** on **Friday, July 23, 2010 at 2p.m.**
4. Full payment is required before items can be removed from the premises; and buyer is responsible for removing purchased items;
5. Terms of the sale are cash, credit card (MC and Visa) or certified check; and
6. CDA reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to withdraw this notice and postpone the sale.

/s/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
Executive Director

NMC board is back on island to face lawsuit, other challenges

King

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Majority of the members of the Board of Regents of Northern Marianas College are back on island following a two-day conference in Hawaii where they had their self-evaluation and retreat.

The board is now expected to face other important issues and challenges such as the lawsuit filed by former NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez and the election of a chairperson.

Based on policy, the board conducts an election during even-numbered years.

Janet King was elected chairperson of the board in December 2009 upon the expiration of the term of Charles Cepeda. The policy provides a two-year term for chairperson. Members are expected to conduct a new election pursuant to policy.

Prior to the Hawaii trip, NMC announced the hiring of a new litigation counsel following the case filed by Fernandez, who alleged that she was wrongfully terminated by the board on April 12.

King, members Maria Paz Younis, Frank Rabauliman and Andrew Orsini were named respondents in the case, along with the NMC.

Cepeda, Malua Peters, and Elaine Orilla—who all voted against Fernandez's termination—were spared from the lawsuit.

The board is also expected to monitor the work of the Presidential Search Committee, which has been tasked to find the college's next president. A temporary timeline set by the panel to find a new president is September.

Early this month, King—along with interim president Lorraine Cabrera and liaison officer Galvin Deleon Guerrero—attended the annual assembly of the accrediting commission, during which they were asked specific issues about the college.

It was in April 2010 when the commission sent two members on a special visit to NMC because of a series of events at the college that could affect the institution's accreditation.

Saipan Tribune learned that the results of the commission's review will be issued this month.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 23, 1999

Tipping fee and recycling seen as solutions to garbage problem

As Pacific islanders struggle to solve their solid waste problem, implementing a tipping fee and a recycling program have become the most logical choice for some of them to save their fragile environment. Guam is set to impose a monthly fee of $8 to residents who want their trash picked up, while businesses will be charged $25 per ton. With the exception of residents, the CNMI is planning to ask businesses to pay for the garbage that they bring to Puerto Rico Dump.

PSS vows to complete decade-long MHS gym

The Public School System has vowed to finally complete this year the Marianas High School gymnasium project, which began almost a decade ago but had been disrupted several times by funding problems and contract conflicts. Christopher Fryling, the agency's facilities specialist, said PSS will award on Friday the contract for the cladding of the steel structure, which remains idle after it was built more than two years ago by B&R Construction. Fryling said PSS is awaiting the US Department of Interior's action on the bidding proposal for the final construction work.

June 23, 2000

Elm's seeks $50K debt by Guam company

Elm's Inc., owner of Town and Country restaurant and video store, filed yesterday in U.S. District Court here a civil complaint for breach of contract in a bid to collect more than $50,000 debt owed by a Guam-based businessman. Tom T. Kamiya, president of Guam Y.T.K. Corp. and a Japanese citizen, has failed and refused to pay the $30,000 loan he secured from Saipan businessman Eddie Flores more than three years ago, according to the suit filed by Elm's lawyer David A. Wiseman. In court documents, the defendant had blamed the economic crisis confronting Guam as the reason for his failure to meet his financial obligation. The loan, which was supposedly to be paid in November 1997, has already accrued an interest of about $26,250 at a rate of 25 percent per annum based on the promissory note signed by Mr. Kamiya, the complaint said.

TES gets six-year accreditation

Tinian Elementary School's hard work has paid off after it secured a maximum 6-year accreditation term from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges last Friday, June 16, 2000. The notification from the Chairman of the Accrediating Commission for Schools Gerry Thompson also recognized Tinian Junior/Senior High School for the same full accreditation, proving once again that Tinian is in the forefront of education in the CNMI. A WASC team conducted a Self-Study visit at Tinian Elementary School last March 28-31, to get a first hand look at how the school was progressing. The visiting team especially scrutinized the "Focus on Learning" concept adopted by the Public School System.

June 23, 2003

US govt sues for money, car

If only George Washington and Abraham Lincoln—whose faces appear on U.S. currencies—were alive, they would probably have some choice comments about their being in the middle of a lawsuit that was initiated by no less than the U.S. government. The U.S. Attorney's Office has filed a civil case against $8,600 in U.S. currency at the U.S. District Court, seeking to have the money forfeited in favor of the American government after it was allegedly used in drug dealing activities. "This is a civil action in rem for the forfeiture of the [money], which was used or intended to be used in exchange for controlled substances, or represents proceeds of trafficking in controlled substances," according to Assistant U.S. Attorney Karon V. Johnson stated.

Lions Club, EICOT up fight vs trash

As volunteers gathered at the Civic Center in Susupe yesterday morning, four-year-old Alicia took time out to play with her elder brother and sister. Indeed, after a few hours of helping pick up trash along Beach Road, she needed the break. When asked if she enjoyed picking up trash together with her brother and sister-Alwyn, 10, and Abby, 7, she shyly nodded yes. Alicia's family joined volunteers and members of the Saipan Fil-Am Lions Club in picking up trash along the entire stretch of the Beach Road from Garapan to San Antonio. The group collected a total of 60 bags of trash. While the Lions Club was engaged in the cleanup activity, other organizations joined the Environmental Inter-Agency Cleanup Operation Team in conducting a similar activity at the Coral Ocean Point area.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

FSM's Mori sets meetings with FSM citizens

Federated States of Micronesia President Emmanuel Mori is scheduled to meet with FSM citizens in the CNMI on Friday, June 25, at 6pm, at the Multi-Purpose Building in Susupe. All FSM citizens are cordially asked to attend this important meeting as many issues facing FSM citizens will be discussed.

On Saturday, June 26, President Mori will be meeting with only the Chuukese community at 12pm, also at the Multi-Purpose Center. For more information, please contact your village and community leaders in the Commonwealth. ***(PR)***

KagHS report card day today

Kagman High School is reminding all parents and guardians of its students that report card day is set for today, Wednesday, June 23, 2010, from 8am to 12pm. For more information, call KHS office at 237-3840. ***(PR)***

LibDay carnival open on weekends

The Liberation Day Carnival at the Garapan Fishing Base will be open on weekends. There will be bingo, rides, food and merchandise for sale on Saturdays, June 25 and July 2, from 12pm to 12am, and on Sundays, June 26 and July 3, from 12pm to 11pm. ***(PR)***

Community invited to Education Fair

The Northern Marianas College will be participating in an upcoming education fair that will be held on Saturday, June 26, 2010, from 8am to 3pm at the U.S. Army Reserve Center in Puerto Rico.

Other institutions to be featured at the fair include Ashford University, Embrey Riddle, Hawaii Pacific University, Jones International University, and Wayland Baptist University. The education fair presents an excellent opportunity to learn about enrolling at these institutions. Students can also learn about VA Benefits, GI Bill, and college distance and direct instruction.

The fair is open to everyone. No military I.D. is needed to attend.

For more information, contact Marsha Wellein at (808) 438-1600 ext. 3176 or e-mail marsha.wellein@us.army.mil.. ***(NMC)***

Military training on FDM until June 25

The Emergency Management Office, in conjunction with U.S. Naval Forces Marianas Guam, is conducting 23 EBS military training on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla until June 25, from 7am to 8pm. Fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators are advised to stay away during the time and date indicated. For more information, contact the Emergency Management Office's Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0 or dial CNMI 211 for this advisory. ***(PR)***

Hopwood summer school schedule

This year's summer school program at the Hopwood Junior High School will start on June 29, 2010, Tuesday. Classes are from 8am to 12pm. Food will not be provided, so parents are encouraged to provide snacks for their child. Bus services will be made available for qualified students, for the duration of the program. For more information, contact Terry at 237-3421/237-3422. Registration for incoming students to Hopwood Jr. High School will be from June 23 to July 23, from 8am to 12pm and 1pm to 4pm at the registrar's office. ***(PR)***

NMC 2009 Alumni Survey

The Northern Marianas College is inviting all 2009 graduates to participate in an online survey that will be open until June 30, 2010. The survey questions are designed to track and measure graduates' educational pursuits and employment since graduation. The College will be using the collected data to improve its programs in order to better meet the educational and workforce needs of the community. To get access to the survey, contact NMC institutional researcher Lisa Hacskaylo at 234-5498 Ext. 1029 or lisah@nmcnet.edu or NMC Alumni president Jack Kiyoshi at Ext. 1021 or jackk@nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
PSS-IFB-10-072

(Re-Announcement of PSS IFB 09-029)
"REHABILITATION FOR SINAPALO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting sealed bids for **Rehabilitation of Sinapalo Elementary School on Rota**, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Scope of Work and project package are available beginning on June 16, 2010 at Pacific Quick Print for a fee of $28.95.

There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference on July 6, 2010 at Sinapalo Elementary School Cafeteria at 1:30 p.m. in Rota. Bids will not be accepted from any bidder who failed to attend this pre-bid conference. Questions may be submitted in writing to Fax No. (670) 664-3715 or emailed to Mr. Rommel Mostales, Acting CIP Coordinator at rommel.mostales@cnmipss.org no later than July 13, 2010, 4:30 p.m.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked, IFB-10-072 and submitted with one original and three (3) copies to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan. no later than 2:00 p.m, local time, July 20, 2010. If no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be publicly opened at 2:00 p.m. local time July 22, 2010 in the 2nd floor Conference Room, NMI Retirement Fund Building.

Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Procurement Officer no later than 2:00 p.m., local time on July 20, 2010 and may be transmitted via fax to (670) 664-3791 or e-mail to robert.florian@cnmipss.org. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and three copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than July 20, 2010 and must be received no later than July 30, 2010 in which case all bids will be opened at 2:00 p.m., August 3, 2010.

This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant, American Receovery and Reinvestment (CDBG-R).

This project is funded under the AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) with "Buy America" Provisions.

/S/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW10-IFB-011

REMOVAL OF RAISED MEDIAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Proposed Removal of Raised Median, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package will be available on or after June 9, 2010 at DPW Technical Services Division 1353 Mednilla Avenue Capitol Hill. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars **($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project, The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2010. Preference is available to US Citizen as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118. Prospective bidders claiming for US Citizen preference are required to submit P&S Form 100 (Revised 12/20/07) with their sealed bids.

A Pre-bid Conference is scheduled for June 28, 2010, 9:00 a.m. local time at the project site located at Tanapag in front of I-Mart Store.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that the full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall ill submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Director of Technical Services Division**, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who have obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgement of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/38 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW10-IFB-011"** For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time July 1, 2010, Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, July 1, 2010, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than July 1, 2010, and must be received no later than July 12, 2010. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, July 15, 2010. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on July 6, 2010.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **A surety company shall hold the Certificate of Authority (COA) from the U.S. Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General and must accompany the bid.** Bid security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with NMIAC §70-30.3-301 of the Procurement Regulations. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Department of Treasury as an acceptable surety and must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI. In addition, the contractor will be required to deliver a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments or other bond obligations) exceeded the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is Thirty **(30)** Working days upon issuance of an official written Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One Hundred Dollars **($100.00)** per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion a date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid protocol that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/S/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
Secretary of Public Works

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PSS RFP 10-076

"PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND ON-SITE COACHING FOR INSTRUCTIONAL MAKEOVER/TURNAROUND FOR SAN ANTONIO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL"

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from individuals or firm interested in "**Providing Professional Development and On-site Coaching for Instructional Makeover/Turnaround for San Antonio Elementary School"** The Scope of Work is available beginning June 16, 2010 at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

There will be a Pre-Proposal Meeting on June 30, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. at San Antonio Elementary School Cafeteria. Questions may be faxed to Ms. Daisy Villagomez-Bier at (670) 664-3934 or emailed to sanantonelem@yahoo.com no later than July 7, 2010.

Proposals shall be in a sealed envelope marked "RFP 10-076" containing (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Ofice no later than Wednesday, July 14, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement Officer

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Retirement, here and abroad

Here in the United States, it's a little hard to feel sorry for the French workers who learned last week that their government wants to raise the minimum retirement age from 60 to 62 to save money on pension payments. That still sounds pretty good to most Americans, for whom retirement increasingly looks like a luxury they won't be able to at afford at any age. Before we engage in too much schadenfreude, though, it's worth remembering that expectations are relative. French workers are no different from any others in wanting to protect the benefits they have long enjoyed. Rather than hope that French retirees face the same fate as our own, we should look at home and abroad for fair and fiscally responsible solutions to ballooning deficits that also preserve a social safety net.

The causes of underfunded pensions are similar throughout the developed world. Populations are living longer and pension costs have soared, while in many countries low birthrates have meant fewer people paying into the system. The global economic crisis has cut into employment, further reducing contributions into U.S. Social Security and French government pension funds. But American retirees have suffered an added whammy. While French pensions are fully funded through the government, U.S. workers rely as much on private funds as on Social Security, and Americans' retirement funds and 401(k)s have been hammered.

The French retirement system has been based on the belief that people should get to enjoy their lives after 40-odd years of work, whereas the U.S. approach has been to provide some support for people after they are no longer able to work. Neither system appears to be sustainable at current levels, prompting national and state governments in both countries to consider a variety of options, including raising the age at which benefits kick in. This seems reasonable; it's one thing to retire in your early 60s and collect a pension when life expectancy is in the mid-70s (as it used to be), and quite another when people are living well into their 80s and 90s.

French officials project a pension deficit of nearly $40 billion this year. By gradually raising the retirement age over eight years and imposing a 1% tax hike on high earners, they say they can balance the books. But many economists say that is not likely to be sufficient. Unions are pressing for corporations to pay more. In the U.S., meanwhile, lawmakers are looking at options for shoring up public pension funds and other retirement programs: hiking worker contributions, providing lower benefits for new hires, reducing aid for wealthy retirees, cutting cost-of-living adjustments, and pushing employees further into 401(k)s, whose benefits aren't guaranteed. There are no painless solutions in either country; the trade-off for living longer may well be paying more before kicking back.

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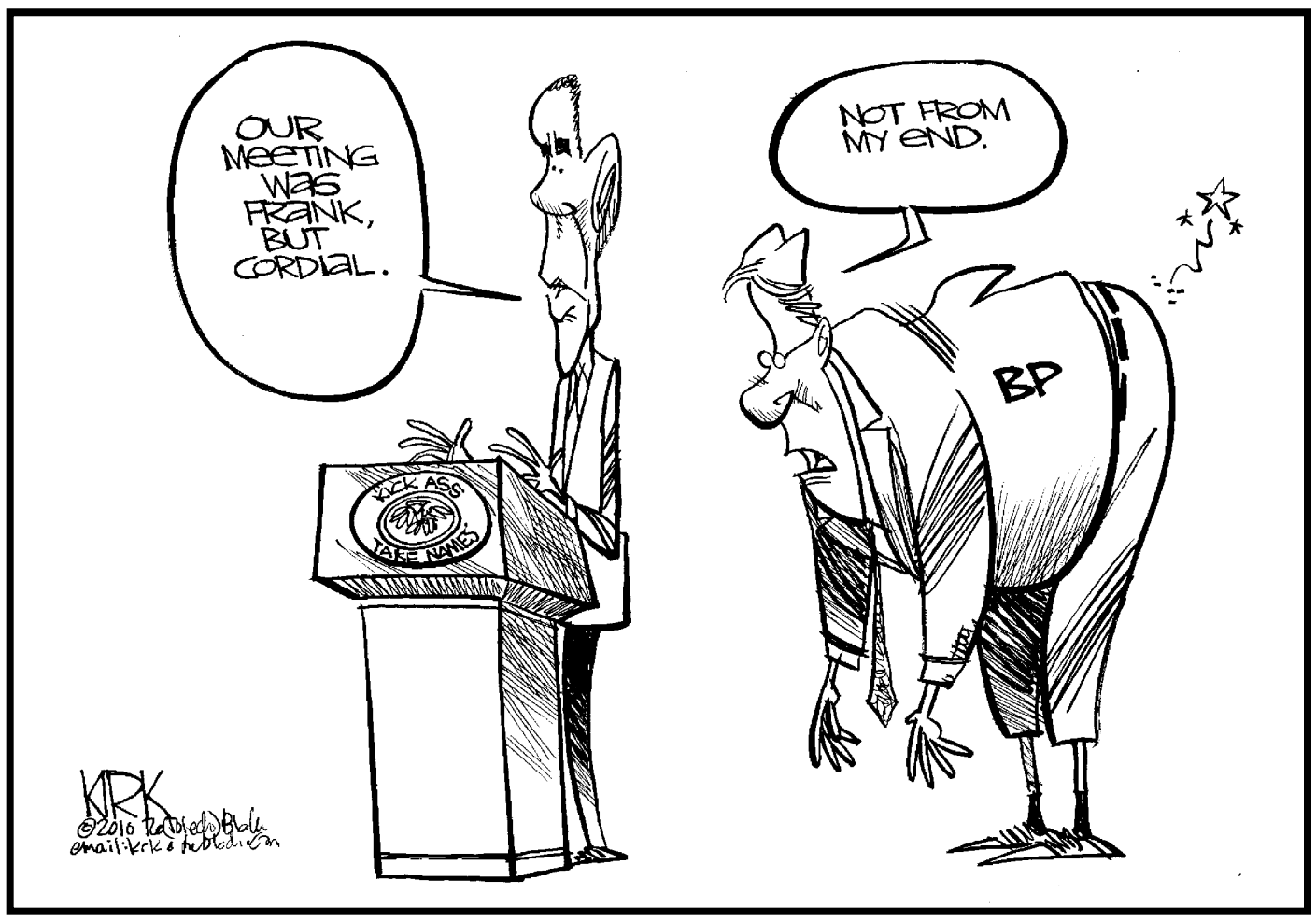


Loss of confidence

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

When confidence and credibility are lost, everything else follows, riding heavily on the trail of suspicion or fear that something has gone fatally wrong. We sit around the picnic table dazed, trying to sift through fact and fiction, confused over the results of our own failure to do what's right, however painful they may be.

The genesis of the current economic doldrums started with the closure of major industries here in the mid-'90s. Subsequently, this phenomenon was exacerbated by the global financial meltdown. The apparel industry that once raked in about $1.2 billion annually was permanently derailed into oblivion and has deployed elsewhere. It also shut down residual businesses as it sailed out of Tanapag Harbor.

Tourism was cruising along until Japan Airlines closed up shop and headed home, not to mention Continental Airlines establishing its hub in Guam after CPA dished it unsolicited political arrogance. We ignored that it's a business and not an organ of the local government. The severe cut in load capacity from Japan, the CNMI's prime market, left a void woefully difficult to fill.

Other key players followed suit, quickly draining investment funds from a lake once overflowing with revenues. As investments atrophied, we sit and ponder what went wrong and whether there's any respite of hope for full economic recovery. Well, not for the next decade and not when institutional investors—i.e., Japan and South Korea—have their own set of economic issues to resolve at home.

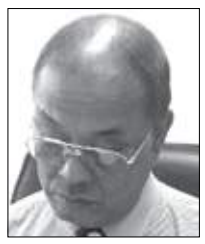
The CNMI had a lot of money to toy around with in the '80s and '90s. Collectively, there was $900 million to $1.5 billion circulating in the local economy. The gradual loss of exogenous investment confidence has had heavy cascading effects on the local economy that is now sputtering. They've put on shutters that shockingly devastated wealth and jobs creation here beyond our wildest imaginings.

At a budget hearing in the early '90s before the U.S. Congress, the healthy economic foundation prompted the CNMI to declare that it no longer needs grant funds to defray government operations. Sadly, it was a short-lived declaration based on a mistaken notion that the good times would roll on forever. Five years ago we asked Uncle Sam for some $140 million to cushion a woefully and fatally sick economy. Such request fell on deaf ears.

In simple terms, loss of confidence and credibility (prompted by our combined inadequacy and global financial meltdown) sent dire messages to investors that resulted in the cancellation of investment plans on the drawing boards. Federalization sent jitters of uncertainty everywhere.

Current economic conditions also forced consumers to withhold most spending habits. The announcement of the planned austerity and reduction of employees' salaries by 12.5 percent forced consumers further into this corner. The delay in paychecks is another phenomenon that further exacerbated consumers' fear to spend. The combined plummet in revenue generation isn't helping the local coffers at all.

When consumers withhold spending, the domino effect begins rolling instantly, interminably. Businesses are forced into a corner of far less business volumes resulting in far less taxes to remit to the local coffers. It's a tough issue to reverse, though confidence can also work wonders in reverse. For now, the CNMI is in the doldrums and far from the days of a healthy economy it once knew. Tourism, the last economic pillar, is swaying dangerously at the base. What's next?



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

It goes without saying that given our dire financial straits we must buckle down (both sectors) to recalibrating or reinventing arcane socio-economic policies and paradigms. Unstable policies are the first order of business. If you have doubts in this area, take a quick glimpse at how we've ruined the Retirement Fund with shortsighted laws or labor laws we've violated with impunity resulting in the loss of immigration control. It's a must to begin rebuilding the future of posterity, including a good faith visitation with the federal government.

To wait for Santa to come in with presents on his canoe is to subscribe to the wisdom of a fool. Our house is on fire, let's pull the hose and start dousing the flame now raging toward the cliff of doom.

Salvation: Covenant 701 and 902

In 2007, at a public hearing here before the U.S. House of Representatives' Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, former Lt. Gov. Jesse C. Borja reminded the chairman of two vehicles available for synergistic problem solving that were ignored by both sides. They are:

Section 701 under the Covenant Agreement that mandates the federal government to "provide for a progressively higher standard of living" for the people of these islands.

The 902 vehicle where both sides could meet every 10 years to review issues and matters of concerns for purposes of ascertaining that the agreement is adhered to as it is U.S. Public Law. Borja's statement was delivered three years ago. Have we gone into constructive engagement to work things out? Or have we simply buried our heads in the sand?

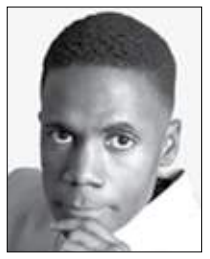
Understandably, there's the intermittent political calisthenics as to ignore putting Uncle Sam to the task of fulfilling his promise under Section 701 of the agreement. We should have sought for the reopening of the 902 talks to facilitate synergistic discussions, no matter how brutally honest the two sides may be on issues warranting discussion and resolution. But no one lifted a finger on this matter.

The use of the federal court should be an option of last resort. It isn't unusual a step given that thousands of issues have been and continue to be litigated by the several states against the federal government. There's the Arizona immigration law that is being challenged. It's a dilemma borne by the politics of trying to lure the growing Hispanic votes to one or the other side. Here we are now caught with our pants down.

Borja is right in his unequivocal assertion that the basis of our relationship must center and revolve around the Covenant agreement. I couldn't agree more!

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The Funny Things That Customers Do No. 3



THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE

Special to the Saipan Tribune

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

Tales from the Walt Vault: The Gouger and The Glory:

Welcome back to Tales from the Walt Vault, stories of the funny-humorous and funny-strange things that customers and clients do. *(#1, and #2 in the series appeared in* Saipan Tribune *April 14, and June 16, 2010)*

The Goal

Once upon a time, several years ago, I ran an independent record label. We had produced singles for our hip-hop artists, and in order to market them more effectively, I hired a video producer named "Dante" (not his real name) to create a video for one of our artists. A contract was signed, money was paid, and the process begun.

Through numerous contacts, and relationships, we reserved a friend's photo studio, recruited dancers and pretty girls, and over the course of a hectic weekend, shot the scenes which were to be used in the video. It was an exciting time. We were all hopeful that this video would be professional enough to be played on BET (Black Entertainment Television), MTV (Music Television) and Video Music Box (a popular local New York show with tremendous influence in the hip-hop market).

The Gouge

As I waited for Dante to call us to view the completed product, I slowly started to realize that something was amiss. I called, and got no reply. I visited his home in Manhattan's upper west side, and that's when he laid the gouge on me.

Things had been more expensive than he had originally contracted, and so he needed an additional $5,000 in order to complete the project. He wouldn't give us the masters or the raw footage so I could complete the project on my own. It was blackmail. If I didn't pay the additional money, we would have no video, and nothing to show for the investment.

The clock was ticking. The summer was gearing up with new releases from other well-funded artists with whom we would be competing, and, if we didn't have our video in time, we would miss our window of opportunity, the summer would pass, and our songs would be "old" in a few months. What was I to do?

Well, one thing was sure, I was not going to give in to the extortion. I wasn't going to cave in to Dante's "gimme." Instead I was going to go for the glory!

*(**gouge**: verb. to extort from, swindle, or overcharge.)*

The Gambit

Through either some person or process I've since forgotten, I found a film student named Lance Cain (real name), who had just graduated from New York University's Film School. As I learned, every new graduate needs to develop a "reel," a collection of work that can be used as a visual resume. So, we agreed that Lance would create not one, but three videos, at cost. In other words, I would pay for the film, developing, and editing (and I think I fed the crew, too!), and everyone would be calling in favors, and working for free, all for the chance to add some accomplishments to their resumes.

It was a risky option. I had already sunk about $10,000 on one producer, and was about to spend more on one who was fresh-out-of college. The success hinged on getting it all done in one weekend, after which everyone—artists, producers, cameramen—would be scattered all over the country, unreachable and unavailable.

*(**gambit**: noun. any maneuver by which one seeks to gain an advantage.)*

The Glory

The story of that weekend shoot itself and how it came within a hair's breadth of being cancelled is worth telling (perhaps another time), but to summarize, it was hectic, ambitious, impossible and a work of sheer genius. We would shoot one group's scene on one side of the street, then while they rested, we would shoot another group's scene on the other side. Cameraman Ian Woolston Smith, co-director Ken Greenblatt and Lance worked tirelessly for the entire weekend to make it happen. In a testament to their planning, coordination and editing genius, the locations were chosen and filmed such that you'd never notice that they were all within a 5-block radius in Harlem.

We came away with three outstanding videos with entirely unique feels, two of which got aired on BET, one which got aired on Video Music Box, and a host of other shows nationwide. And we did it all for under $7,500! That figure will mean more if you understand that at the time, the lowest cost that most people thought you had to spend for just one music video was between $10,000 and $20,000!

We went for, and grabbed the glory! Lance has gone on to be an Emmy-award winning producer (www.cainfilms.com). Ian Woolston Smith is a famous steadicam operator (www.iancam.com).

The Gravy

A few months later, I found myself in a courtroom in lower Manhattan, sitting next to Dante, facing a small claims court judge.

I was ready. I had our original contract. I had my receipts. I had my documentation of the airing on BET and other shows, and I had my testimony.

Dante was visibly (and satisfyingly) shocked when I told the story of our BET victory, and Video Music Box airing. This was key to my case, because I had to prove I incurred additional expenses as a result of having to hire a new producer to complete the project he had failed to complete. He grabbed the documents to verify that I was telling the truth! He couldn't believe that I had already won!

Long story short: I won the case. (All the years of watching Felix Unger's courtroom exploits on the Odd Couple sitcom paid off!) Dante was slapped with a $7,000 judgment, and I walked away with the glory. As we passed each other in the hallway, Dante's last words to me were, "You're never going to see any of that money, Walt." I kind of already knew that.

But, that was fine. I had the glory, and my principles intact. I hadn't given in to his extortion. I hadn't allowed him to block my progress. And he had a permanent judgment on his record to remind him of who he was messing with!

The Good

My mantra in life is: "The Universe is Perfect." I really only had three choices: 1. Pay Dante more money. 2. Find another way to get things done. 3. Use a baseball bat.

Think about all the good that I experienced as a result of making the right choice and responding correctly to what might have been perceived as an obstacle (I didn't use the bat): I got three videos done for less than the price of one. I worked and helped a future award-winning producer. I got our videos played on national cable networks, and I now have a better story of victory to tell you today!

So, what have we learned from today's tale, boys and girls?

1. People will do what people will do.

2. The Universe is Perfect, and what may appear to be disaster might be the catalyst for greater glory!

3. Don't mess with Walt!

Stay tuned for more exciting gems from the Walt Vault, and, in the meantime, go for the glory!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 16 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit*. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here on Saipan. To learn more, visit www.passionprofit.com and follow Walt on Twitter (waltonsaipan). Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.*

An analysis of the proposed Saipan Casino Control Act

By RAMON BLAS CAMACHO
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Editor's Note: The following is Saipan & Northern Islands Municipal Council chair Ramon Blas Camacho's testimony on House Bill 17-56, the proposed Saipan Casino Control Act of 2010, at the June 11, 2010, public hearing conducted by the House Committee on Commerce & Tourism. Due to its length, it will be published as a six-part series.

Third of a six-part series

As in the foregoing discussion, the same logic applies to the Saipan Municipal Treasury. Though HB 17-56 claims it not as a new agency of local government within the mayor's office, its organizational characteristics, power structure, duties and responsibilities, qualification requirement, authority, jurisdiction, and legislative confirmation requirement implicate Article VI, section 8(a) of the constitution as a new agency of local government.

It is noteworthy that neither of the two new agencies has been established in the past by legislative fiat by either the local delegation or municipal council, except through twice failed public referenda, of which section 8(a) would not be an issue if properly executed in a popular initiative or legislative initiative, contrary to the way HB 17-56 is designed by legislation.

C. Evaluation of Proposal/Legislation

As stated in the analysis above, advocates of casino in HB 17-56 propose to rescue the local ailing economy through games involving prize, consideration and chance. The advocates also are optimistic, forecasting the fiscal capacity and multiplier spin-off of casino in infusing needed public funds for improvements in "health care and medical referrals services, education, scholarship programs, public safety, and many other essential government services benefiting the general public, (including) …meeting government payroll.", and even reversing the high incidence of brain drain and unemployment on Saipan.

Yet, the hierarchy of appropriation priority prescribed in Article XIV for the local legislative delegation does not comport with the priorities as enumerated above. Without realistic, much less concrete revenue projection, the casino advocates designed a string of activities to be funded by the casino revenues. Categorical funding include: 1. earned income credit (EIC), 2. NMD royalty entitlement dividends, 3. retirement fund contribution, and 4. a "local purpose" philanthropy program, consisting specifically of funding field trips to the Northern Islands; commercial loans; home mortgage assistance; housing maintenance and ground transportation for the disabled and the elderly and other disability programs; health care or insurance subsidy; social and cultural programs; youth programs; NMD and U.S. local resident scholarship and training; gambling anonymous program; public safety and law enforcement facilities and equipment; educational facilities and equipment; recreation and sports facilities and infrastructure development and equipment. The appropriation priority and order of needs in the local purpose category is to be determined in the budget submission of the Mayor of Saipan referenced (article XV), and subject for approval as is or to be modified by the Saipan legislative delegation by resolution.

Ironically, at the top of the appropriation chain of priority, subject to Chapter 3, Title 4 taxes for deposit in the Saipan Casino Fund and appropriation by SNILD, and presumably to benefit 1. NMD, 2. the people of Saipan, and 3. the islands north of Saipan), is funding the Commission's debt-cost payment not to exceed $600,000 for its initial operational cost with the Saipan Municipal Treasury, to be sourced by either government institutions or private equity or lending institutions (banks) if and when the local delegation fails to appropriate money for the expenses of the commission and the municipal treasury, presumably in conformity with applicable laws and regulations especially on local procurement. The amount of $600,000 is the upper limit that could be levied and funded from two casino application fees ($250,000 per license) to be assessed on two (2) foreign investors and one (1) NMD license fee pegged at $100,000. However, the actual amount levied on the single NMDIC license and the two foreign investors may be lower. The commission is vested with the authority on the actual fee structure in article XI of the bill.

While HB 17-56 claims the initial debt-cost authorization is not a public debt, the act of lawfully authorizing this option by statute inherently makes it a public debt! Commonsense dictates that when due for repayment and no investor applies for the foreign license or the NMD license, the statutory loan guarantor would obviously be the bank of last resort-- the local government through an appropriation by the local delegation!

To be continued.

Ramon Blas Camacho is chairman of the Saipan & Northern Islands Municipal Council.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼79°	▲90° ▼79°	▲90° ▼79°	▲90° ▼79°	▲90° ▼79°

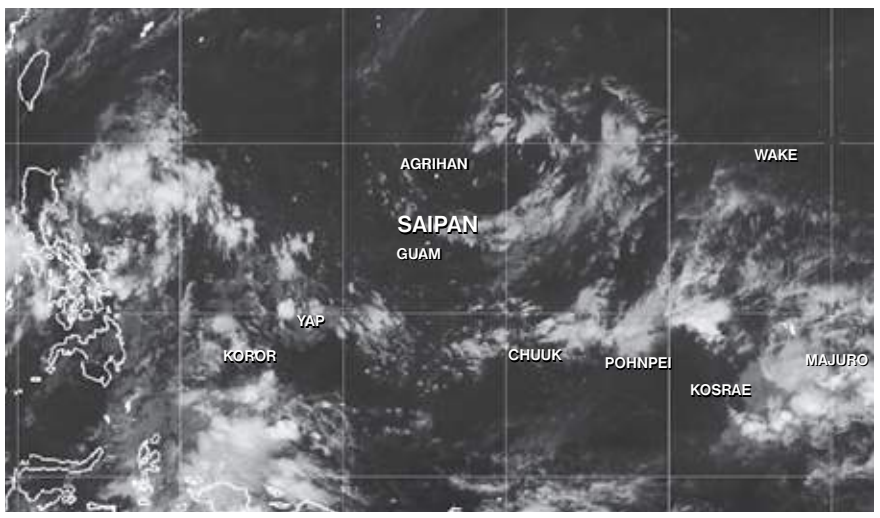
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼80
Palau	Rain	▲87	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲87	▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87	▼75
Kosrae	Rain	▲88	▼78
Majuro	Rain	▲84	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲59	▼50
Beijing	Sunny	▲89	▼69
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲84	▼81
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼75
London	Mostly Sunny	▲76	▼57
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼60
Manila	Thundershowers	▲91	▼82
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼52
Miami	Thundershowers	▲90	▼81
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼69
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲77	▼72
Paris	Sunny	▲78	▼56
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲78	▼69
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼61
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲78	▼55
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼55
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼67
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	▲76	▼71
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲94	▼77

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Trade-wind convergence is combining with upper-level divergence to cause widely scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over and northwest of Koror and Yap in an area bounded by a line from 6N130E to 10N143E to 19N130E back to 6N130E. A surface trough extends northward from EQ134E to 10N134E. Trade winds converging near the trough are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms along the equator south of Yap and Koror or south of a line from 5N130E to 6N136E to EQ140E. An upper-level low is centered northeast of the Marianas at 19N149E. Upper-level divergence in the vicinity of the low is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over the CNMI and southwest of Minami Tori Shima within 75 miles of a line from 16N145E to 15N150E to 17N154E to 20N154E to 22N149E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms just east of Chuuk and just north of Pohnpei between 7N and 10N from 153E to 159E. Similar weather also exists southeast of Majuro between 3N and 7N from 172E to the date line. A surface trough stretches southeastward from 13N161E to 2N169E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found in an area bounded by a line from 12N160E to 1N164E to 3N172E to 7N172E back to 12N160E. Kwajalein and Majuro lie on the northern edge of this area.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:54 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
11:38 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
6:56 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
11:36 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:48 AM	6:50 PM
Thursday	5:48 AM	6:50 PM
Friday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Saturday	5:49 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:49 AM	6:51 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:58 PM	2:38 AM
Thursday	4:55 PM	3:29 AM
Friday	5:50 PM	4:21 AM
Saturday	6:43 PM	5:16 AM
Sunday	7:31 PM	6:11 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 27, 2010

DEPARTURES

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	5:55am	8:35am	Daily
DL297	3:35pm	6:15pm	Daily
DL289	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:10am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/703	2:20am	11:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/703	2:50am	11:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	12:10am+1	1, 5 via PUS
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	6 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05am	9:30pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ706/607	3:35am	2:20am+1	4, 7 via PUS
C0890/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	6 via GUM
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via GUM-Palau
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4 ,6 ,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

NMI to be featured in 10-page spread on Outside mag

Nearly a million readers of *Outside* magazine will read about the Northern Mariana Islands and the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument in the July 2010 issue. The 10-page story features anecdotes and photos from Maug, Uracas, Agrigan, Pagan, Sarigan and Saipan.

Last year the Friends of the Mariana Trench Monument and the Pew Environment Group organized an expedition to Asuncion, Maug and Uracas. *Outside* magazine contributing editor Patrick Symmes participated in the expedition, the first circumnavigation of the Marianas archipelago after the declaration of the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument by President George W. Bush on Jan. 6, 2009.

Former Pew Saipan coordinator Angelo O'Connor Villagomez, who unsuccessfully ran for mayor of Saipan in 2009, said of the magazine article, "the international exposure the monument continues to bring is rebranding the Marianas as an ecotourism destination. The next step is for the federal government to build a visitors center."

The *Outside* magazine article features quotes from CNMI Historic Preservation Office's Herman Tudela, Pew Environment Group's Jay Nelson, Friends of the Marianas Trench Monument's Laurie, Gary Evilsizer, Agrigan resident Eddie Saures, and Villagomez. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Former Pew Saipan coordinator Angelo O'Connor Villagomez shows off a coconut crab in this photo that will be featured in the magazine *Outside*.

MVA honors Hafadai's Shimomura

Marianas Visitors Authority acknowledged Miki Shimomura's contributions to the islands tourism industry by awarding the former Hafadai Beach Hotel staff a certificate of recognition and appreciation recently.

No less than MVA managing director Perry John Tenorio presented the certificate to Shimomura, who served as front office assistant manager, gift shop manager, and housekeeping manager of the Garapan hotel before returning to Japan in June 13.

Also attending the recognition ceremony held at the MVA office in Oleai were MVA deputy managing director Judy C. Torres, and MVA director Yoichi Matsumura.

Shimomura was hired by Hafadai Beach Hotel on June 2, 2004 as front office assistant manager. In October 2007, she assumed the additional post of gift shop manager. A year later, Shimomura took over the position of housekeeping manager. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hafadai Beach Hotel's Miki Shimomura, second from right, received the Marianas Visitors Authority's certificate of recognition and appreciation during a simple recognition ceremony earlier this month. Also in photo are, form left, MVA deputy managing director Judy C. Torres, MVA managing director Perry John Tenorio, and MVA director Yoichi Matsumura.

Humanities Council to preview underwater WWII heritage trail

The public is invited to preview an underwater World War II heritage trail during a presentation by Dr. Jennifer McKinnon at the American Memorial Park on Friday, June 25, 6:30pm. This is the latest installment in the Northern Mariana Island Council for the Humanities Community Lecture Series.

A grant from the American Battlefield Protection Program provided funding for an underwater survey of World War II objects in the Saipan lagoon. Sites documented include three tanks, four airplanes, two landing craft, a possible subchaser, a freighter and an LVT (Landing Vehicle Tracked, a class of amphibious vehicles introduced by the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps and Army during World War II.).

The planned heritage trail will be featured in individual site brochures, diving and snorkeling guides and a Web site that tourists and divers can use to learn about the history of the sites. The trail will promote sustainable heritage tourism and stimulate the economy of Saipan while showcasing historically significant heritage sites in the beautiful Saipan lagoon.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Divers check out World War II objects in the Saipan lagoon.

The lecture is free of charge and open to the public. It will feature photographs and videos taken during the survey. Dr. McKinnon will also discuss management options to ensure the long-term protection of these significant historic resources.

CONTACT INFO
- NMI Council for the Humanities Tel: 235-4785
- Web: www.nmihumanities.org

For more information, contact the council at 235-4785 or visit the council's Web site: www.nmihumanities.org. ***(PR)***

USDA extends financial assistance to Guam farmers for transportation costs

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Farmers in Guam will be eligible to receive financial assistance for transportation costs through a program authorized by Congress and administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The Agricultural, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2010 provided $2.6 million for the Reimbursement Transportation Cost Payment Program for Geographically Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers.

Through this program, farmers on Guam may be eligible to offset up to 25 percent of costs incurred for the transportation of an agricultural commodity or an input used to produce an agricultural commodity in fiscal year 2010. The maximum an applicant can receive in benefits from this program is $8,000.

Sign-up for RTCP will begin on Aug. 2, 2010, and end on Sept. 10, 2010. Applicants also will have until Nov. 1, 2010, to provide supporting documentation of actual costs of transporting agricultural inputs and commodities in fiscal year 2010. More information on the program can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport.

To be eligible for RTCP program benefits, producers must:

- Be a geographically disadvantaged farmer or rancher producing and marketing, including the transportation of an agricultural commodity in an approved area;
- Submit an application during the specified period applicable for each fiscal year;
- Provide proof of the amount of costs incurred for the transportation of the agricultural commodity or input;
- Comply with conservation and wetland protection requirements on all their land;
- Have an average non-farm income that does not exceed $500,000;
- Be a citizen of or a legal resident alien of the United States in accordance with 7 CFR Part 1400 for foreign persons.

"This program will assist our local farmers in offsetting the costs of transporting their goods to market and around the island," according to Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo. "I appreciate the assistance offered by the Obama Administration to our local farmers, and I encourage our island's farmers to take advantage of this financial assistance available to them." ***(PR)***

IG report may increase weatherization funding

The CNMI Division of Energy recently learned that it could potentially see an increase in funds for its Weatherization Assistance Program. The increase comes as a direct result of findings in a recent audit by the Department of Energy's Inspector General Office. The Inspector General's Office determined that there was a discrepancy in the data used to calculate the original allocation amounts for the CNMI and other territories.

The Department of Energy, in response to the audit findings, has agreed to recalculate the allocations for the CNMI and other territories. The recalculation in territorial allocations will increase the CNMI funding by approximately 25 percent and should allow for another 50 homes to receive weatherization services on the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

The CNMI Weatherization Assistance Program was originally given $795,206 in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding with the goal of reducing energy costs for low-income families, particularly for the elderly, people with disabilities, and children, by improving the energy efficiency of their homes while ensuring their health and safety.

The Weatherization assistance Program was approved to weatherize 173 homes throughout the funding period, which will end in March 2012. To date the Energy Division has weatherized 28 homes for low-income families with services that include the replacement of old and inefficient refrigerators, window type air-conditioning units, and light bulbs. The allowable cost per household is approximately $2843.12 but that figure is subject to change dependent on Energy Auditor findings.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said, "We are extremely pleased with the progress of the CNMI Division of Energy's Weatherization Program. We welcome any potential increase in funding resulting from the Inspector General's findings as it will provide an opportunity for more homes and families in the CNMI to avail of this important program." ***(PR)***

Island Snapshots

DOING THEIR PART CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Kagman High School Marine Biology Club pose with the new set of trash and recycling bins recently installed at the Marine Beach. These students have been cleaning up Marine Beach every month for a year now. To support the group, the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance and Docomo Pacific surprised the club with the new recycling bins. The 30-member Club had been interested in taking part in MINA's Adopt-a-Bin program to limit the amount of picnic waste left on the ground.

PRAYER FOR THE WAR DEAD HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Buddhist monks and others from the True Buddha School Purple Lotus Temple in California pray for those who perished during World War II on Saipan, in a morning ceremony on June 18 at the Banzaii Cliff in Marpi.

BURGER-EATING CHAMPIONS CLARISSA DAVID

The fire department tandem of Stuart Peter (Station 6) and Gary Cruz (Station 1), standing in the rear, show off the plaque and gift certificates they won after emerging victorious in Hard Rock Café's "Guns vs Hoses" burger-eating competition on June 14, 2010, in celebration of the restaurant chain's 39th founding anniversary.

CLARISSA DAVID

The police department duo of PO1 Jasmine King and PO1 Antonio Kaipat show off a burger and the prizes they received after winning second place in Hard Rock Café's "Guns vs Hoses" burger-eating competition on June 14, 2010, in celebration of the restaurant chain's 39th founding anniversary.

UTILITIES TALKS HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. assistant executive director Abe Malae and CUC chief financial officer Charles H. Warren, left, shakes hands with Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), Senate President Paul Manglona (R-Rota), and Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian) after a meeting on June 15 in the Senate chamber on Capital Hill.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Christian Michael "Magas" Songsong Demapan celebrates his 4th birthday with his friends at Whimsy of the Saipan Grand Hotel.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Christian Michael "Magas" Songsong Demapan poses with his family at the Whimsy of the Saipan Grand Hotel.

RUSSIAN VISITORS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Visiting Russian media representatives try their luck at fishing on May 23, 2010, during their recent familiarization tour of the Northern Mariana Islands. The tour group was assisted during their tour of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota by Marianas Visitors Authority marketing specialist Tatiana Babauta, far right.

NEW CHRISTIAN CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Welcome to the Christian world to Dynno Markel Rivera of San Jose Village, Tinian, who was baptized on June 19, 2010! He is joined in this picture by his mom, Melinda Rivera, and dad, Donny Rivera.

SHIRLEY'S CLEANUP CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Employees of Shirley's Restaurant and their families pose in front of the restaurant's Susupe branch before participating in a beach cleanup on June 16, 2010, at the Sugar Dock/Beach Tower side. A total of 21 volunteers participated in the monthly cleanup.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Shirley's Restaurant staff and their relatives pose with the bags of trash they collected after a cleanup activity on June 16, 2010, at the Sugar Dock/Beach Tower side. The volunteers collected 80 lbs of trash, mostly composed of cans, bottles, plastics, and discarded food.

Business

Borrowers exit troubled Obama mortgage program

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration's flagship effort to help people in danger of losing their homes is falling flat.

More than a third of the 1.24 million borrowers who have enrolled in the $75 billion mortgage modification program have dropped out. That exceeds the number of people who have managed to have their loan payments reduced to help them keep their homes.

Last month alone,155,000 borrowers left the program—bringing the total to 436,000 who have dropped out since it began in March 2009.

About 340,000 homeowners have received permanent loan modifications and are making payments on time.

Administration officials say the housing market is significantly better than when President Barack Obama entered office. They say those who were rejected from the program will get help in other ways.

But analysts expect the majority will still wind up in foreclosure and that could slow the broader economic recovery.

A major reason so many have fallen out of the program is the Obama administration initially pressured banks to sign up borrowers without insisting first on proof of their income. When banks later moved to collect the information, many troubled homeowners were disqualified or dropped out.

Many borrowers complained that the banks lost their documents. The industry said borrowers weren't sending back the necessary paperwork.

Carlos Woods, a 48-year-old power plant worker in Queens, N.Y., made nine payments during a trial phase but was kicked out of the program after Bank of America said he missed a $1,600 payment afterward. His lawyer said they can prove he made the payment.

House, Senate reach tentative deal on debit cards

WASHINGTON (AP)—Limits on the fees banks charge merchants who accept debit cards would not apply to government-issued cards, under a tentative House-Senate deal aimed at easing worries raised by state treasurers.

The agreement announced Monday softens a Senate provision in a broad financial regulation bill that requires the Federal Reserve to limit the amount banks collect from merchants for every debit card transaction.

Separately, House negotiators tentatively agreed to accept a Senate proposal to set up a consumer financial protection bureau as an independent agency inside the Federal Reserve. The House and the Obama administration had wanted a stand alone agency.

The debit card provision, approved by the Senate last month 64-33, aimed to save retailers billions of dollars in debit card fees. Merchants said the charges resulted in inflated costs to consumers.

Under the tentative deal, the limits would not cover debit cards issued by the federal or state governments, which use the cards for programs such as unemployment or child support payments. Several state treasurers argued that restricting fees paid by merchants could force banks to increase charges for the cards to states.

AP sources: Obama to announce new health benefits

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama on Tuesday will announce new health insurance benefits for consumers, marking the first 90 days since he signed landmark legislation to expand coverage.

The announcement will follow a private meeting between administration officials, several state insurance commissioners, and CEOs of major insurance company, amid concerns over continued premium hikes, the White House said. Obama is expected to attend at least part of the session.

Consumers who buy their policies directly faced increases averaging 20 percent this year, according to a survey released Monday by the Kaiser Family Foundation. Although most Americans are covered on the job, about 14 million purchase insurance on the individual market and have the least bargaining power when it comes to costs.

Obama's announcement will cover regulations to implement a so-called patient's bill of rights provided under the new law, said administration allies who were briefed in advance and spoke on condition of anonymity ahead of the official announcement.

The consumer safeguards are limited steps that take effect this year. The main provisions of the legislation, including federal funding to help 32 million now uninsured get coverage, won't come until 2014. The administration worries that escalating premiums will force more people drop their policies before the law is fully implemented.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Stocks fall after China currency enthusiasm fades

NEW YORK (AP)—Stocks erased big gains Monday after investors lost some of their enthusiasm about China's decision to let its currency appreciate against the dollar. The Dow Jones industrial average fell about 8 points after climbing nearly 144 in early trading. The Dow had been up the past four days. The Standard & Poor's 500 index also slid and the Nasdaq composite index fell after seven straight gains. The initial reaction to China's weekend announcement was that a stronger yuan compared with the dollar would allow U.S. manufacturers and exporters to be more competitive selling their products in China. But traders came to see the move as more of a long-term shift rather than something that would give the economy a boost now. A drop in the euro also eroded investors' excitement over China's move. A slide in the European currency is seen as a sign of faltering confidence in Europe's ability to contain its debt problems.

Oil falls to near $77 as 4-week rally stalls

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices fell to near $77 a barrel Tuesday in Asia as investors mulled whether the global economy is strong enough to justify extending a four-week rally. Benchmark crude for July delivery was down 80 cents to $77.02 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract gained 64 cents to settle at $77.82 on Monday. Oil has jumped from $64 a barrel on May 25 on optimism Europe's debt crisis won't stymie the global economic recovery. Goldman Sachs cut its crude forecasts, but still expects prices to rise this year as the global economy grows an estimated 4.9 percent in 2010. Goldman now expects prices to rise to $87 a barrel in three months, down from last month's forecast of $96. Prices advanced to as high as $78.92 a barrel Monday on investor expectations China's move over the weekend to strengthen its currency would boost crude demand.

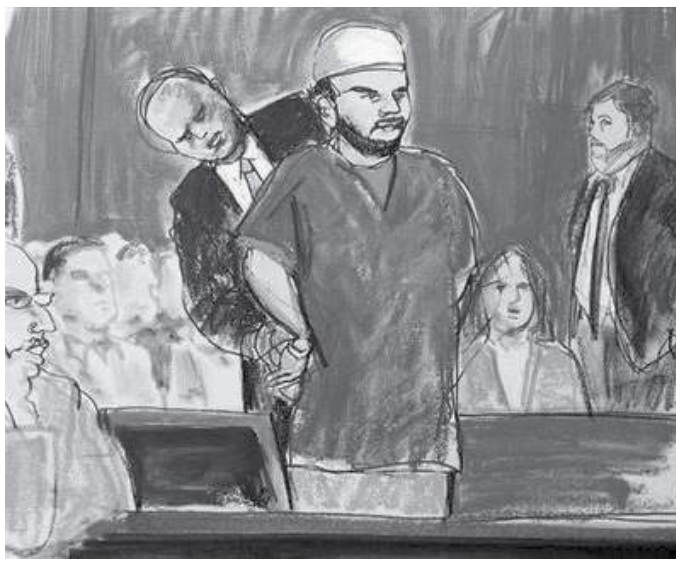
Nation

NYC car bomb suspect pleads guilty, calls it 'war'

NEW YORK (AP)—Calling himself a Muslim soldier, a defiant Pakistan-born U.S. citizen pleaded guilty Monday to carrying out the failed Times Square car bombing and left a sinister warning that unless the U.S. leaves Muslim lands alone, "we will be attacking U.S."

Faisal Shahzad entered the plea in U.S. District Court in Manhattan just days after a federal grand jury indicted him on 10 terrorism and weapons counts, some of which carry mandatory life sentences. He pleaded guilty to them all.

Widely circulated snapshots of Shahzad—a U.S.-trained financial analyst and married father of two—show him with a neatly trimmed beard, all smiles and looking carefree behind sunglasses or with his American wife. When led into court Monday, he had on a white skull cap and prisoner's uniform, his beard shaggy and his demeanor serious.



AP

In this courtroom sketch, a U.S. Marshall removes Faisal Shahzad's handcuffs in the courtroom Monday, June 21, 2010, in New York.

Head of spill victims fund pledges fast payments

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The administrator of a $20 billion fund to compensate Gulf oil spill victims pledged Monday to speed payment of claims as a federal judge considered whether to lift a six-month moratorium on new deepwater drilling.

Kenneth Feinberg, who has been tapped by the White House to run the fund, said many people are in desperate financial straits and need immediate relief.

"We want to get these claims out quicker," he said. "We want to get these claims out with more transparency."

Feinberg, who ran the claim fund set up for victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, said BP has paid out over $100 million so far. Various estimates place total claims so far in excess of $600 million.

BP said it has spent $2 billion fighting the spill for the last two months and compensating victims, with no end in sight. It's likely to be at least August before crews finish two relief wells that are the best chance of stopping the flow of oil.

The British oil giant released its latest tally of response costs, including $105 million paid out so far to 32,000 claimants. That figure does not include the $20 billion fund BP PLC last week agreed to set up for residents and businesses hurt by the spill.

ACROSS THE NATION

Neb. town votes on illegal immigration measure

FREMONT, Neb. (AP)—Many voters in the eastern Nebraska city of Fremont supported a ban on hiring or renting property to illegal immigrants, according to preliminary results from Monday's special election. With votes from seven of 20 precincts counted, 58 percent of residents were supporting the measure—the latest proposal in a series of immigration regulations taken up by communities around the country. Full results were not expected until later Monday night. The town has watched as its Hispanic population surged in the past two decades, largely due to the jobs available at the nearby Fremont Beef and Hormel meatpacking plants. The city also has an enviably low unemployment rate that matches the Nebraska rate of 4.9 percent. Nonetheless, residents worry that jobs are going to illegal immigrants who they fear could drain community resources. Proponents of the ballot measure collected enough signatures and fought in the Nebraska Supreme Court to put the question to a public vote.

Top general in Afghan war: US envoy betrayed me

WASHINGTON (AP)—The top U.S. war commander in Afghanistan told an interviewer he felt betrayed by the man the White House chose to be his diplomatic partner, Ambassador Karl Eikenberry. An article out this week in "Rolling Stone" magazine depicts Gen. Stanley McChrystal as a lone wolf on the outs with many important figures in the Obama administration and unable to convince even some of his own soldiers that his strategy can win the war. A band of McChrystal's profane, irreverent aides are quoted mocking Vice President Joe Biden and Richard Holbrooke, the special U.S. representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan. McChrystal himself is described by an aide as "disappointed" in his first Oval Office meeting with an unprepared President Barack Obama. The article says that although McChrystal voted for Obama, the two failed to connect from the start. Obama called McChrystal on the carpet last fall for speaking too bluntly about his desire for more troops.

High court upholds anti-terror law prized by Obama

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Supreme Court upheld the government's authority Monday to ban aid to designated terrorist groups, even when that support is intended to steer the groups toward peaceful and legal activities. The court left intact a federal law that the Obama administration considers an important tool against terrorism. But human rights organizations say the law's ban on providing training and advice to nearly four dozen organizations on a State Department list squanders a chance to persuade people to renounce extremism. The justices voted 6-3 to reject a free-speech challenge from humanitarian aid groups to the law that bars "material support"—everything from money to technical know-how to legal advice—to foreign terrorist organizations.

Asia

Abnormal radiation detected near Korean border

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Abnormally high radiation levels were detected near the border between the two Koreas days after North Korea claimed to have mastered a complex technology key to manufacturing a hydrogen bomb, Seoul said Monday.

The Science Ministry said its investigation ruled out a nuclear test by North Korea, but failed to determine the source of the radiation. It said there was no evidence of an earthquake, which follows an atomic explosion.

On May 12, North Korea claimed its scientists succeeded in creating a nuclear fusion reaction—a technology necessary to manufacture a hydrogen bomb. In its announcement, the North did not say how it would use the technology, only calling it a "breakthrough toward the development of new energy."

South Korean experts doubted the North actually made such a breakthrough. Scientists around the world have been experimenting with fusion for decades, but it has yet to be developed into a viable energy alternative.

On May 15, however, the atmospheric concentration of xenon—an inert gas released after a nuclear explosion or radioactive leakage from a nuclear power plant—on the South Korean side of their shared border was found to be eight times higher than normal, according to South Korea's Science Ministry.

AP

In this undated photo released by Korean Central News Agency in North Korea and distributed by Korea News Service in Tokyo on Monday, June 21, 2010, North Korean leader Kim Jong Il inspects vegetables at the 593rd army of the People's Armed Forces' base in an undisclosed location.

47 killed when explosion rips through China mine

BEIJING (AP)—At least 47 miners were killed Monday when an explosion ripped through a coal mine in central China, the government said.

The blast hit a mine in Pingdingshan city in the province of Henan, the State Administration of Work Safety said. Seventy-five miners were trapped initially but 28 escaped, the central government said on its website.

State broadcaster CCTV reported on its website many of the deaths were caused by carbon monoxide poisoning set off by the explosion. An investigation is under way into the cause of the blast.

Footage on CCTV's evening newscast showed paramilitary sealing off a mine gate, routine practice for authorities after such disasters as they try to keep distraught relatives from storming the compound. Ambulances sat empty in a dirt lot outside the mine.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Afghan opiate use has doubled in 5 years, UN says

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Drug addicts as young as a month old. Mothers who calm their children by blowing opium smoke in their faces. Whole communities hooked on heroin with few opportunities for treatment. Use of opiates such as heroin and opium has doubled in Afghanistan in the last five years, the U.N. said Monday, as hundreds of thousands of Afghans turn to drugs to escape the misery of poverty and war. Nearly 3 percent of Afghans aged 15 to 64 are addicted to opiates, according to a study by the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime. The U.N. defines addicts as regular users.

That puts Afghanistan, along with Russia and Iran, as the top three countries for opiate drug use worldwide, according to Sarah Waller, an official of the U.N.'s drug office in Kabul. She said a 2005 survey found about 1.4 percent of Afghan adults were opiate addicts.

RP authorities hunt for seized Malaysians

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines has ordered a search for two Malaysian seaweed farm workers who were abducted by gunmen four months ago after new intelligence indicated the captives were being held in the country, an official said Monday. Five gunmen seized the workers from Malaysia's Sabah state on Feb. 8 and whisked them away on board a speedboat. Intelligence reports recently indicated the two may be in the southern Philippine province of Tawi Tawi, governor Sadikul Sahali said. Al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf militants have staged kidnappings in neighboring Malaysia in the past, then brought their hostages to jungle hide-outs on southern Jolo island to seek ransom. Sahali, however, said it remained unclear who abducted the Malaysians, identified as Tsen Vui-chung and Lai Wing-chou. It was the first time a Philippine official disclosed that there were signs the abducted Malaysians may be in the country and that a search was under way.

Flooding death toll rises to 175 in southern China

BEIJING (AP)—Widespread flooding in southern China has caused 175 deaths, with 107 more people missing and more storms expected, the government said Monday. Thousands of houses have been destroyed and economic losses have topped 14 billion yuan ($2.05 billion), according to the Ministry of Water Resources. The toll was up from 132 on Sunday. Flooding has affected more than 10 million residents since torrential rains began June 13, said a report posted on the State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters website. The number included people injured, stranded or who had suffered property damage. The report called on emergency response teams to step up evacuation efforts of those still stranded in their homes.

World

Van der Sloot won't talk

LIMA, Peru (AP)—Murder defendant Joran van der Sloot refused to speak to the Peruvian judge handling his case Monday, while a Dutch newspaper reported that he has retracted his confession.

Superior Court Judge Carlos Morales visited the 22-year-old Dutchman at the maximum-security prison in eastern Lima where Van der Sloot has been held since being charged with first-degree murder in the May 30 killing of a young woman he met playing poker in Peru's capital.

But Van der Sloot would not talk, citing his lawyer's petition to declare his confession void in the death of 21-year-old Stephany Flores, the court said in a statement.

The lawyer, Maximo Altez, contends the confession isn't valid because the defense lawyer present when Van der Sloot made it was state-appointed.

Van der Sloot, who is also the prime suspect in the 2005 disappearance in Aruba of U.S. teen Natalee Holloway, was quoted by the Dutch newspaper De Telegraaf on Monday as saying he signed a confession only because he was intimidated by police. He said they promised him he would be transferred to the Netherlands if he confessed.

"I was very scared and confused during the interrogations and wanted to get away," the paper quoted him as saying. "In my blind panic, I signed everything, but didn't even know what it said."

In addition to possible involvement in Holloway's disappearance, for which Van der Sloot has not been charged, he is wanted by the FBI on suspicion of attempting to extort money from the Holloway family.

Peruvian President Alan Garcia has said Van der Sloot will have to be tried in Flores' death before any extradition request can be considered.

If convicted of killing Flores, Van der Sloot faces from 15 to 35 years in prison in Peru.

Prosecutors allege Van der Sloot killed Flores in his hotel room, where her body was found, with "ferocity and great cruelty." According to a transcript of the confession, he elbowed the young woman in the nose, strangled her with both hands, threw her to the floor, took off his bloodied shirt and asphyxiated her.

Gang members burn bus in El Salvador, killing 14

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP)—Gang members opened fire on a bus on the outskirts of El Salvador's capital, then doused it with gasoline and set it on fire, killing at least 14 passengers in what the president on Monday called an act of terror.

Police managed to break windows and help 13 people escape the flames but others died inside. Sixteen people suffered injuries in the late Sunday attack, officials said.

"This is an act that seeks to generate terror among the population," President Mauricio Funes said, adding that his security Cabinet was to meet to increase security in the country.

Violent youth gangs have besieged the public transit system in this small Central American nation to extort bus workers and largely impoverished commuters and travelers.

The armed assault was the deadliest attack this year on a passenger bus.

The attack took place in a gang-plagued part of the municipality of Mejicanos, just outside San Salvador, National Police Commissioner Carlos Ascencio said. At least 14 people were killed, he said.

Moments later, gang members opened fire on another bus in the same neighborhood, killing two people.

Ascencio said Monday night that eight suspects had been arrested in the bus burning, including one who was detained minutes after the attack and smelled of gasoline. Among the detained were a woman and two minors.

UN: Israel needs to move quickly to ease closure

NUSSEIRAT, Gaza Strip (AP)—Students in this refugee camp study in stifling hot metal shipping containers, and there's no space in the crammed U.N. classrooms for thousands of incoming first graders because Israel's blockade of Gaza has kept out supplies for building schools.

At Gaza's largest hospital, dialysis patients live in fear of frequent power cuts, and the CT scanner is used only for the most urgent cases because there are no spare parts to fix its failing cooling system.

Since the violent 2007 takeover of Gaza by Hamas—an Islamic militant group responsible for firing thousands of rockets at Israeli border communities—Israel has let in only limited humanitarian supplies, including basic foods and medicine.

Construction materials, which Israel maintains Hamas could use to make weapons and build bunkers, were barred; the vast majority of Gaza's 1.5 million people could not travel, and a ban on trade has wiped out tens of thousands of manufacturing jobs.

WORLD BRIEFS

Twin of late Polish president in runoff vote

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—Poland holds a presidential runoff July 4—and a moderate, pro-European leader who has been acting president since a plane crash killed the incumbent is seen as the likely winner. But the late leader's euroskeptic twin posted a surprisingly strong second-place finish in voting Sunday that has given him momentum. Although Poland's president carries out primarily symbolic duties, he can veto laws and has influence on foreign military missions, and the runoff vote is expected to have a significant effect on the country's course. Interim President Bronislaw Komorowski says he backs Poland adopting the euro in about five years and supports the government's attempts to trim the welfare state. Challenger Jaroslaw Kaczynski, the dead president's twin brother, would put the brakes on privatization and try to keep a larger role for the state in the economy.

Environmentalists say Red Sea oil spill continuing

CAIRO (AP)—Environmental activists said Monday that an oil spill off the coast of Egypt's Red Sea is continuing even after the government said it had been contained, leaving turtles and sea birds covered in oil. Government spokesman Magdy Rady told the state news agency Monday that the spill, which began last week, was "limited" and has now largely been contained. It was one of the first government acknowledgments that the spill was even taking place. An environmental group based in the Red Sea resort town of Hurghada told the Associated Press that the government was trying to cover up the extent of the damage and the leak had restarted. "Just today I received news that the oil had started leaking again this afternoon after it had stopped Thursday," said Ahmed el-Droubi, a biologist with the Hurghada Environmental Protection and Conservation Association.

Focus

> *Yes, it's hard. It's hard for the well-meaning families that are waiting to adopt children. And it's hard for the children that are being prevented from running into the arms of these families.*

AP

In this photo taken April 30, 2010, Canadian aid worker Tamara Palinka pushes Sonson on the bicycle she gave him as a present at an orphanage on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince.

Child rescued from Haiti rubble is orphaned again

By RUKMINI CALLIMACHI
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Time was up, not 10 minutes into the visit. The social worker went to pull the 3-year-old orphan out of the arms of the woman he calls "Momma."

The boy turned his face and dug his hands into her clothes. He kicked his legs. He screamed as they carried him away.

Tamara Palinka covered her mouth to hold back the sobs. The 37-year-old Canadian volunteer aid worker did not know when—or if—she would get another glimpse of the child she was desperately trying to adopt.

International adoption has always been a sensitive subject in Haiti, a reminder that the country is too poor to care for its own. After January's quake, the Haitian government effectively slammed the door shut on most adoptions altogether. With no foster care system and virtually no domestic adoption in Haiti, untold numbers of children orphaned by the quake—like the 3-year-old known as Sonson—now face a lifetime inside an institution.

The crackdown on adoption came in response to two incidents. First, Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell flew 53 children from a destroyed orphanage run by two Pittsburgh sisters back to the U.S., after a tense standoff with officials at the Haiti airport. Then a group of U.S. missionaries tried to take 33 Haitian children out of the country without papers, claiming they were orphans when in fact all had at least one living parent.

Infuriated, the Haitian government announced that all children leaving the country would need the signature of Prime Minister Jean-Max Bellerive. Since then, the government has relented somewhat, but it still allows only the adoption of children orphaned before the quake or those relinquished by their parents in the presence of a judge.

"The sad part is that because of a few people's mistakes, children that could find a good home and are waiting for a home will now have to suffer for years—and may never get a home at all," says Miriam Frederick, founder of the New Life Childrens Home orphanage.

At another orphanage, Sonson sits apart from the other children.

He stares at the floor.

"Who is your momma?" asks an orphanage worker. "Mara," he whispers. "Do you miss her?" He nods.

■ ■ ■

The first thing people saw after the ground stopped shaking on Jan. 12 was the thick, white cloud. It was the dust kicked up by hundreds of falling buildings. People pulled out of the destruction looked like they had been doused in flour.

Three weeks passed before anyone noticed the 3-year-old. The only part of him not covered in white dust was his foot, which was stained red with blood.

Two women saw him playing by himself on top of a destroyed house and assumed his parents were nearby. But after four days and nights, they realized he spent all day on top of the rubble by himself.

Then they noticed his belly was getting bigger, a sign of malnutrition. He was picking through the rubble for trash to eat. They carried him to the nearby office of the Salvation Army.

The toddler was covered with dust, didn't talk and looked dazed, according to the charity's report. His foot was infected, so they transferred him to a field hospital set up by the University of Miami on the grounds of the airport.

■ ■ ■

Palinka could hear the hospital before she saw it.

Hundreds of people were screaming. Children moaned in pain as nurses changed bandages on their raw stumps. Families yelled out for help for their dying relatives.

For the next two months, she often worked 24-hour shifts without a break. She was paged when the generator stopped working, when the medical supplies ran low, when the water ran out and multiple times a day when a patient died.

"Everyday I catch my heart in my throat," she wrote in a journal entry.

An athletic blond, Palinka had been working drafting safety procedures at an oil refinery. By the time the quake hit Haiti, she had enough saved up to take a leave of absence.

She had been at the hospital for three weeks when the 3-year-old was brought in and placed in a cot. It was dark when they told her an orphan had been rescued from a trash pile.

The other children in the pediatric ward had parents nearby. At night, the mothers crawled into the cots with their children.

Palinka felt a sudden sadness. The boy looked so small, swallowed by the adult-sized cot. She didn't want him to wake up alone.

On a whim, she got in the cot with him.

She tried to sleep but couldn't. She listened to the sounds inside the sauna-like tent—coughing, the whimpering of a child in pain, nurses brushing past, doctors talking and the alarm set off by a little girl in the emergency room.

In the morning, the 3-year-old stirred. He rolled toward her, glanced at her, then quickly turned away. She felt that her side was wet. He had peed all over the cot.

She changed him. She gave him baths inside a plastic laundry tub. She rummaged through the donations flown in from Miami to find him fresh clothes and a play pen.

When she first tried to clip his toe nails, he pulled in his feet and curled them into little balls. Coaxing him in Creole, a Haitian nurse slowly got him to extend his feet.

The food at the hospital came in a styrofoam takeaway container. She placed the box in front of the 3-year-old. He opened it and threw one leg over it, as if to shield it from anyone who might try to steal his food.

He ate in famished gulps until he couldn't eat anymore. Then he hid the box under a table. When she took him outside, he grabbed a fistful of dirt and stuffed it inside his mouth. The doctors determined that he had worms, most likely from eating food off the ground.

At lunchtime, the nurses placed the takeaway box on the floor of his play pen. Palinka returned to find him asleep in a pile of rice. When he lifted his face, chunks of rice were glued to his cheek.

One morning, as she lowered him into his play pen and turned to leave, he threw up his arms and screamed out, "Momma!"

■ ■ ■

At first the little boy only looked at his feet. She would tell him softly, "regarde moi"—"look at me." He started to give her furtive glances. She took him into her tent, away from the clamor of the pediatric tent.

He started to talk to himself. Sometimes he sang. One of his favorite games was to blow on her stomach, making the sound of a motorboat.

She asked a Haitian translator to figure out his name. The translator got down on one knee to ask him. The child stared at his feet. He repeated the question. And then the child answered.

"Sonson," he said.

She brought a different translator. And then a third one. Each time the answer was the same. On her Facebook page on Feb. 13, Palinka wrote: "Sonson is a good name."

Two days later she posted: "Tamara Palinka wants to take Sonson home! will start the process tomorrow."

In Alberta, Palinka's mother Kate Millar wrote back: "Is Sonson a child you are hoping to adopt??? Am I going to be a grandmother???"

International adoptions by U.S. households have fallen from a high of around 23,000 in 2004 to roughly half that last year, according to U.S. State Department figures. Haiti is the latest of several former "donor" countries to put a freeze on such adoptions.

Vietnam and Guatemala have halted adoptions altogether. South Korea—one of the first countries from which orphans were sent—has revised its rules to make adoptions increasingly difficult.

"There is a sense in many, many countries that to be a 'sending' country is an embarrassment," says adoption lawyer Diane Kunz, executive director of the Center for Adoption Policy and an expert on adoptions from Haiti. "Their perspective is 'Our patrimony is our children.' It's as if you are giving this away."

■ ■ ■

By his second week at the hospital, Sonson was transformed. He sang and danced. At dinner, he beat a stick on the back of the styrofoam container like an instrument.

He begged for food. Other volunteers gave him candy and snacks. Some days Palinka would come to feed him and see he had already two empty styrofoam boxes in front of him. Several times he vomited on her. One night she took him to see a doctor at 2 a.m. because he was complaining of a stomach ache.

She taped a sign to the back of his shirt. "Please do not feed me," it said. "My mommy does that."

One time, she went to get him for his nap and couldn't find him. A volunteer had walked off with him.

"I was like, 'What are you doing?' Don't you ever ever walk off with him again."

■ ■ ■

"I've made up my mind so don't even try to stop me," Millar wrote her daughter in an e-mail. "I'm coming down to see my grandson."

The two slept with Sonson between them.

Millar saw her daughter transformed into a mother. It was in every gesture—from the soft way she spoke to him, to the constant attentiveness she showed him.

"In my case that is something that I grew into by giving birth myself to a child. She didn't grow into it by being pregnant," Millar says. "When I saw her, she was a mom—in every way she is a mom. This is her son. ... I'm so proud of her."

■ ■ ■

As Palinka spent more time with Sonson, her attention began to shift away from the hospital.

Then the order came from Miami. The rainy season was starting. The hospital needed to downsize.

None of the orphans had medical conditions that required them to stay. Palinka was tasked with contacting the government to transfer them to orphanages.

She clashed bitterly with the hospital's management, according to several volunteers. She accused the hospital of trying to 'unload' the orphans. Hospital officials accused her of letting her feelings for Sonson blindside her. A spokeswoman for the hospital said it does not comment on personnel issues.

Within days, the orphans—including Sonson—were registered with the state's child welfare agency.

See CHILD on Page 18

Campus Life

USCG

MST2 Audrey Gurganus teaches the students how to use the radios to communicate with each other from across the room.

USCG

Students enrolled in second grade at the P.C. Lujan Elementary School interact with Coast Guard men and women to learn about their jobs.

USCG

A Coastie teaches this student how to place a marine emergency call.

US Coast Guard Inspires at Career Day

BARRIGADA, Guam—In February, the U.S. Coast Guard participated in Career Day, a chance to expose children to many different opportunities at a young age, hopefully inspiring them to seek out a career that challenges and interests them.

Students enrolled in second grade at the P.C. Lujan Elementary School were able to interact with Coast Guard men and women to learn about their jobs. The Coasties also taught some basic water safety skills, including how to place a marine emergency call.

The Coast Guard set up a static display for the children, encouraging them to interact with the gear and develop their newly learned skills. In addition to climbing onto the 25ft Response Boat, the children were allowed to don hard hats and overalls, throw heaving lines, and learn about life jackets, EPIRBS (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon), and other tools that the Coast Guard employs for marine safety.

MST2 Audrey Gurganus said that she particularly enjoyed helping the students use the radios to communicate with each other from across the room. "The kids really enjoyed all the equipment we had," says Gurganus.

BM3 Brian Sink, a member of CG Station Apra Harbor, was part of the day's events. He describes why it was meaningful for him to donate some of his time to the students

"I remember how I felt at 7 or 8 years old and the fire department would come to my school and let us try on their helmets and tour their truck…they were just normal guys doing their jobs, but to me back then, they were like super heroes. It was so cool to feel like that super hero type person."

Another Coastie, OSC Joseph Benavente, was reminded of his childhood too. "As a second grader, I knew nothing about the Coast Guard," Benavente explains; "I wanted to be a policeman when I was in the second grade. If I had known about the Coast Guard, I would have wanted to be a Coastie instead." Chief Benavente now works at the Sector Guam Command Center, who handles Search and Rescue among other Coast Guard missions. Benavente added, "I hope we gave them a good understanding about the Coast Guard's mission to preserve and protect the very waters that they will enjoy for the rest of their lives."

The children received toy foam boats and helicopters, and coloring books as keepsakes for their special day, and the grand finale was a lunch put on by the staff of P.C. Lujan Elementary. Perhaps one of the P.C. Lujan Elementary students will grow up to join the Coast Guard, protecting Guam's waters and becoming a "super hero" for someone else.

For maritime emergencies, call the Coast Guard 24 hours a day at (671) 564-USCG or 911. ***(USCG)***

CHILD

From Page 17

When Palinka returned, hospital officials relinquished her of her duties. They said she was spending too much time with Sonson.

A 6-minute video shot on a co-worker's Blackberry phone shows Palinka's final moments with Sonson before he was taken away.

He is sitting on her lap in the backseat of an SUV. He pinches her lips together, like a fish. Then he leans forward and kisses her over and over again.

When the sport utility vehicle pulled away, Palinka waved until the car had driven out of sight. Then she sobbed until she started dry heaving in the hospital's parking lot.

Within a week she aged. Her eyes were hollows. Her face was taut. She carried his toy car in her pocket for comfort.

"I see her, and you don't even want to ask what's going on," says Jen Jasilewicz, the hospital's chief nursing officer. "It amazes me. You have someone who wants to give her love and all those beautiful things to a child, and she is not being allowed to."

Haitian officials say they are trying to protect children from possible exploitation.

"International adoption should always be a last resort," says former Deputy Gerandale Telusma, who headed a committee charged with drafting the country's new adoption law. "We need to first make sure there is no other family willing to take the child ... to make sure they don't enter into some kind of nightmare."

It is a position backed by the United Nations Children's Fund, which helped create a database for unaccompanied children after the Haiti quake. The aim is to reunite children with their extended families, even if family members say they cannot care for the child.

Michel Forst, the United Nations' independent expert on human rights in Haiti, says the adoption freeze is necessary.

"There were lots of people that were coming here and doing whatever the heck they wanted. So it needed to be put on hold so that we could make sure that these adoptions were being done in a legal manner," Forst says.

"And yes, it's hard. It's hard for the well-meaning families that are waiting to adopt children. And it's hard for the children that are being prevented from running into the arms of these families."

■ ■ ■

Sonson was transferred to a modern orphanage in a village a 1½ hour drive from downtown Port-au-Prince. Palinka spent her remaining weeks in Haiti trying to get visitation rights.

On her first visit, she was told to call a child welfare case worker at 8 a.m. Palinka says she called more than 20 times between 8 and noon and each time was told to call back "in 10 minutes." She was then told to drive to the side of the highway leading to the village and wait.

She says she waited for more than two hours in the sweltering car before the case worker arrived. Jeanne Bernard Pierre, the head of the child welfare agency, declined to comment.

The woman took her to see Sonson. She didn't recognize him.

His head had been shaven. He was sitting by himself on the floor. The other children rushed at her, screaming. "Where is he?" she asked.

"Don't you recognize him? That's him," said the woman.

She crouched on her knees. "Sonson?" she said. He looked up and then away. She scooped him up in her arms. He held on tightly. He made no sound, until they tried to pull him away. And then he screamed.

In the month since they were separated she has seen him twice more. Each time she finds him diminished. "He looks smaller. He's no longer making eye contact," she said.

He cannot be declared an orphan for at least six months, to give his family a chance to reclaim him if they are alive. After that, he enters the bureaucratic labyrinth of Haiti's adoption limbo.

Even before the earthquake, the waiting time for the roughly 300 Haitian children adopted each year into U.S. households was two to three years. So even if the government accepts Palinka's application, 3-year-old Sonson will be waiting for about as long as he has been alive.

■ ■ ■

On her last supervised visit, Palinka was allotted 20 minutes with him. She arrived an hour early. She brought him his bike with the training wheels.

Through a translator she tried to explain what would happen next. "I'm going to go away for a long time, but I will come back for you," she told him.

When the visit was up, she lifted him onto the bike. Engrossed, he pedaled away.

She quietly slipped out. She kept her bloodshot eyes on the ground as she walked briskly out of the gravel driveway, his toy car in her pocket.

IN HUMBLE GRATITUDE

We the family of the late

†ERENEO
BABAUTA
DELA CRUZ

Wish to extend our deepest and warmest appreciation to all our relatives and friends for the genuine compassion you showed us during our most painful time of sorrow. Your thoughtful prayer, comfort and unending support and other considerate acts of grace did much to calm the ache in our hearts and may time lessen our pain as memories gently turn tears to smiles. We acknowledge and cherish the time you devoted to us. Your kindness has touched us all and we will always remember you.

May God Bless Us All

Mansen magof ham bai en ekstende un sinseru yan dangkulu na si yu'us ma'ase i familia yan man atungo' siha pot I tinayuyut yan finatton miyu durante I piniten mami. Todu I tiempo bai hahasso hamyo gi tinayuyut mami ni familian I la difunto as
†Ereneo Babauta Dela Cruz
July 02, 1942 – June 06, 2010

Un Dangkulo Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase
Ginen I Familia

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Domingo P. Salavaria

Born to life on: October 09, 1921
Called to eternal rest on: June 20, 2010

This is to inform the relatives and friends of Domingo Piol Salavaria, who was called to his eternal rest on, Sunday, June 20, 2010.

Nightly Mass is being said at 6:00 p.m. at St. Jude Church, in Koblerville followed by the Holy Rosary at 7:15 p.m.

On Saturday, June 26, 2010, at 7:30 a.m. our beloved Domingo will be escorted from Senora Dela Paz to St. Jude Church for final viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. followed by interment service at the Mt. Carmel Cemetery at Chalan Kanoa.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Ghilissow,
Maraming Salamat Po, and Thank You

From the Family

Life & Style

Asian dancers dominating ballet competition

AP

In this June 13, 2010 photo, Japanese senior dancer Maki Onuki, front, is held by her non-competing partner Tamas Krizsa during their classical dance entry "Giselle, Pas de deux, Act II" in the first round of the first session of the USA International Ballet Competition in Jackson, Miss.

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)— Asians are dominating the stage as the USA International Ballet Competition heads into its final round, with nearly half the 34 finalists announced Monday hailing from Asian countries.

Among those dancers was Maki Onuki, a petite Japanese ballerina who said she's not surprised so many Asians made the final cut.

Onuki and her non-competing partner, Tamas Krizsa of Hungary, practiced "Juanita y Alicia," a contemporary ballet created by Washington Ballet artistic director Septime Webre.

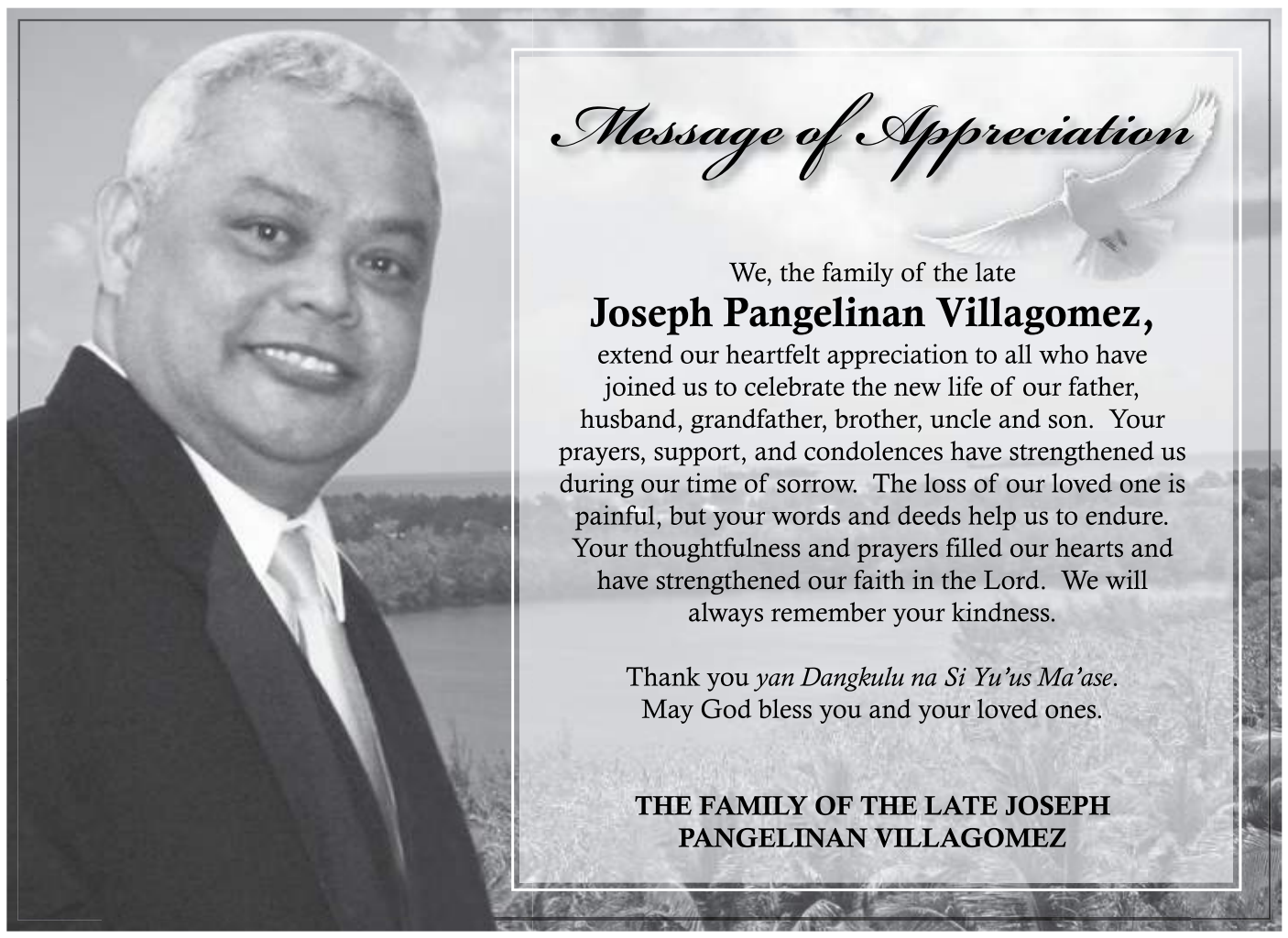
During her rehearsal of the percussion-heavy dance, Onuki was confident even as Krizsa chided her about keeping her legs straight and close together as he slung her over his shoulder and held her in the air.

"I think Asian people have strong technique. We're short and have really compact bodies that are easy to control. Girls who have long legs, it's hard to control," said Onuki, a 24-year-old dancer with the Washington Ballet.

The USA IBC, considered the United States' official international ballet competition, began June 12 with 103 dancers. They're all competing for medals, cash awards, company contracts and scholarships. There are junior and senior divisions in the two-week competition that officially ends Sunday.

The winners will be announced Friday.

Among the Asian finalists are 16 dancers from the Philippines, South Korea, Japan, China and Taiwan. The United States and European countries have the next largest contingent of finalists with five each, IBC officials said.



Message of Appreciation

We, the family of the late

Joseph Pangelinan Villagomez,

extend our heartfelt appreciation to all who have joined us to celebrate the new life of our father, husband, grandfather, brother, uncle and son. Your prayers, support, and condolences have strengthened us during our time of sorrow. The loss of our loved one is painful, but your words and deeds help us to endure. Your thoughtfulness and prayers filled our hearts and have strengthened our faith in the Lord. We will always remember your kindness.

Thank you *yan Dangkulu na Si Yu'us Ma'ase*.
May God bless you and your loved ones.

THE FAMILY OF THE LATE JOSEPH PANGELINAN VILLAGOMEZ

In Loving Memory

Teresita Somorang Kaipat

September 20, 1934 – June 20, 2010
fondly known as "**Titang**"

was called by Our Almighty Father to eternal rest at the age of 75 years.

In her new life she now joins her,
Husband: **†Ramon Rogolofoi Kaipat**
Children: **†Bill Somorang Kaipat**
†Debra Somorang Kaipat
Parents: **†Pedro Repaito Somorang**
†Maria Olopai Somorang
Parents-in-law: **†Jesus Rafmetao Kaipat**
†Maria Kotomor Rogolofoi Kaipat

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her children,
Jesus S. & Rochelle V. Kaipat and children
Pedro S. & Rosa T. Kaipat and children
William S. Kaipat and children
Debra S. Kaipat and son
Mae K. & Alex F. Mettao, children and grandchild
June S. Kaipat
Ramon S. & Josephine C. Kaipat and children
Theresita S. Kaipat
Marco S. Kaipat
Manny K. & Fuamatala Berki and son
Rosa K. & Antonio R. Sabino and children
Rudy S. & Jocelyn Kaipat and children
Clement S. & Nacrina B. Kaipat and children

Nightly Rosary is held at her residence in Gualo Rai – 7:30 p.m.
Christian Mass will be held on Monday, June 28, 2010 – 6:00 p.m. at the San Jose Church, Oleai, Saipan.

Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Thank you, Olomwaay and Si Yu'us Ma'ase,

The Family

In Celebration of Her New Life

Juanita Taman Seman Malone

"Lulu"

January 31, 1956 – June 19, 2010

In her new life, she now joins her:
Parents: Juan M. Seman & Esperanza Taman Seman
Brother: Vicente Taman Seman
In-Laws: Lawrence Johnson

She will be greatly missed by her:
Ex-Husband: Michael C. Malone
Children: Joseph Ponciano R. Malone
Reyna M./Jose P. Saures, Children, and Grandchildren
Patrick S. Malone
Samantha M./Ronald Bigalbal
Michael S. Malone

Brothers & Sisters: Visitacion Teregeyo
†Vicente T. & Miriam K. Seman
Maria T. Seman
Margarita S. Johnson
Bernadita S./ Vicente Villagomez
Anthony T. Seman
Joseph T. Seman/Susan
Hope S./Jeffrey Hempstead

She is also survived by numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, and friends.

On Friday, June 24, 2010, last respects will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. immediately followed by Christian Burial Service, 10:00 a.m. at Grace Christian Assembly, Navy Hill, Saipan. Interment will follow at the Tanapag Cemetery, Saipan.

Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase,
and Ghilisou,

The Family

AP

In this Jan. 31, 2010 file photo, Michael Jackson's children Paris, left, and Prince Michael Jackson II accept the Lifetime Achievement award on behalf of their father at the Grammy Awards in Los Angeles.

Family attorney: Jackson children just normal kids

LOS ANGELES (AP)—They are show business royalty, heirs of the King of Pop. Someday, they will be very rich. But a year after their father Michael Jackson's death, Prince, Paris and Blanket Jackson are normal kids full of fun and pranks, devoted to each other and to their grandmother who is their guardian, according to a lawyer who sees them frequently.

They talk about their father and his presence is everywhere in the ranch-style house in the San Fernando Valley where they live. Pictures and memorabilia adorn the walls. The gated compound has additional residences where other members of the family have lived over the years.

"The children are seemingly as normal as normal can be under pretty extraordinary circumstances," says Adam Streisand, the lawyer who represents Katherine Jackson and a frequent visitor to the compound where she lives with the children. He provided an account of life inside their guarded world in an interview with The Associated Press.

The large Jackson family, including eight of Michael's siblings and their families, has been a source of emotional support for the children, who frequently play with their cousins, Streisand says. And over the past year, Michael Jackson's parents, children and siblings have moved on with their lives in a world with his music but without him.

The three youngsters have seen Michael Jackson's final concert movie, "This Is It," but their grandmother, still devastated by the death of her son last June 25, has not watched it.

In an interview with London's Daily Mail, published Sunday, Katherine Jackson said she misses her son every day but sees his spirit in his three children, whom she is raising "a little less strict" than her son would have.

Prince, whose birth name is Michael Joseph Jackson Jr., is the eldest of Michael's children. At 13, he has developed an interest in filmmaking, and his brother, sister and cousins have been starring in their own home movies.

"They have props and sets, and one of them acts as director. They all have roles," says Streisand. Recently, a snippet of film was leaked to YouTube showing Paris and Blanket in what might have been scenes from one of their movies. Katherine Jackson told the Daily Mail that Paris, who has a photo shrine to her father on her wall, wants to be an actress.

The one disturbance that brought social workers to the home, in March, stemmed from the kids' moviemaking, Streisand says. Jermaine's son, Jafar, 13, saw an Internet ad for a stun gun. He bought it by mail, thinking it would be a prop for their movies. When he tried shooting it into a towel, security guards came running. No one was injured.

The children love going to the movies, especially action and fantasy films, and are usually transported by security guards who are also on duty at the family compound 24 hours a day. The Jackson kids are avid students of karate and have made friends at their karate classes.

Since Michael's death, the children have continued the home schooling that had been their routine when he was alive. Streisand says a room has been set aside in a building at the estate and turned into a classroom where a tutor conducts classes. But in the fall, Prince will leave the cloistered realm to go to private school, a choice that was made by him and his grandmother.

"He is ready to branch out and have a more socialized experience," Streisand says.

Whether his 12-year-old sister, Paris Michael, will join him is undecided, although in the Daily Mail interview Katherine Jackson suggested they all would. Eight-year-old Blanket, whose given name is Prince Michael Jackson II, is described by Streisand as "totally cute and personable—a very bright little boy who looks a lot like his father."

In a brief interview this week, their uncle, Jackie Jackson, said the children were "very excited about going on vacation." They plan to visit Disney World, the Smithsonian museums in Washington, D.C., and other sites where "they can learn as well as have a good time."

Since Michael's death, Jackie said the family has continued to have gatherings: Last week, everyone came together for a party at the family home when two of his nephews graduated from high school.

On the anniversary of Michael's death, he said the family will gather for a quiet, private memorial.

As for Katherine Jackson, who recently turned 80, life has become a whirlwind. She is busy overseeing the children's activities, but is also involved in the administration of Michael's estate. Although not an executor, she is kept informed by the estate administrators, John Branca and John McClain, on projects that are undertaken.

"She is energetic and active. Her health is perfect," says Streisand. "She has very clear ideas about what she wants and does not want as to estate matters."

She is also putting out a book, "Never Can Say Goodbye: The Katherine Jackson Archives," filled with photos of her son.

"I want the world to know the real Michael," she told the Daily Mail. "I'd like him to be remembered as the loving person he was."

Streisand says Katherine Jackson has made it clear that she does not want Neverland to be sold, and for the time being, it is not on the market. But the 3,000-acre spread costs millions to maintain and a decision to sell could be reconsidered.

Streisand recently made a statement for Katherine in response to an interview given by her husband, Joe, in which he blamed her for their son's death.

Streisand called the charge "preposterous" and says Katherine was "very hurt" by the statements. Nevertheless, days later, the couple arrived together at a courtroom for a hearing in the involuntary manslaughter trial of Dr. Conrad Murray, charged with improperly administering a mixture of sedatives, including the anesthetic propofol, in an attempt to get the chronic insomniac to sleep.

Joe lives in Las Vegas but stays at the family compound when he is in California. Other members of the Jackson clan have their own homes.

A rundown on their activities since Michael's death:

JOE JACKSON: Joe has been the family's wild card. He has criticized prosecutors for not filing stronger charges against Murray, accused concert promoter AEG Live of wrongdoing and has given interviews that promoted his own business ventures in the days after his son's death.

He is battling Michael's estate, seeking more than $15,000 a month, even though Michael Jackson omitted his father from his will and trust. The singer also excluded him from guardianship duties, and Joe filed a declaration stating he would not play a primary role in raising his grandchildren.

The move was not altogether surprising, considering Michael's strained relationship with Joe. Michael said at one point that he used to get physically sick at the sight of his father.

Joe has attended every court hearing involving Murray's prosecution.

Now nearly 81, he is likely to remain a constant figure in his son's post-death affairs. He is expected to sue Murray for his son's death and is appealing the legitimacy of the executors of his son's estate, which pays his wife and grandchildren more than $86,000 a month.

Michael's brothers and sisters were also omitted from his will.

JANET JACKSON: The highest-profile living member of the Jacksons continued to balance acting and singing over the past year. She put out a greatest hits album with a couple of new tracks to lackluster sales, but had success with her starring role in the movie "Why Did I Get Married Too?" Janet has also been cast in the film adaptation of the Ntozake Shange play, "For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Is Enuf," and is writing a book detailing her yearslong battle with weight. "It's not an autobiography, even though it gives anecdotes throughout my life. ... It talks about self-esteem as well, and acceptance from within," she said in a recent interview. Janet was seen on the finale of "American Idol"; in July, she will perform at the annual Essence Festival in New Orleans.

TITO JACKSON: Tito participated in the short-lived reality show "The Jacksons: A Family Dynasty." He has been touring with a blues band—he plays guitar—with planned stops in Japan, China and New York. His sons, who are in their 20s, have become close to Michael's children, says Streisand, who describes them as "smart, loving and supportive young gentlemen." Tito joined the family in court for Murray's arraignment.

JERMAINE JACKSON: Jermaine spent the first few months after his brother's death trying to plan an all-star tribute. One was to be held in Vienna, Austria, but was later canceled as top acts that had been touted to appear were not confirmed. With three other brothers, he appeared on the Jackson's reality show, and accepted awards for Michael at the American Music Awards, bringing his sons on stage with him. The children live with their mother, Alejandra, at the family compound but are expected to move out soon. Alejandra also has two children by Randy. Jermaine has attended all court hearings in the Murray case.

RANDY JACKSON: Randy was the only brother who declined to be on the Jackson reality series; he said on Twitter that he was a private person. But the youngest Jackson brother, who was recently hospitalized for chest pains, has been vocal on Twitter about various matters, ranging from Murray's prosecution to unauthorized tributes to his brother. "At times I'm sad & broken," he wrote on Twitter, thanking fans for boosting his spirits with their support.

MARLON AND JACKIE JACKSON: Along with Tito and Jermaine, Marlon and Jackie participated in the Jackson brothers reality show, and were executive producers. Jackie said the show continues to play in Europe but there are no plans for a second season. He and Marlon have been in a recording studio with estate executor McClain preparing Michael's unreleased music for a new album. Jackie is also a producer of the planned Michael Jackson Cirque du Soleil show, working closely with the estate executors and lawyers. Of the Jackson family, he said, "We have come together to make sure that we keep Michael's name and likeness alive."

REBBIE JACKSON: The oldest Jackson sibling has made a few albums and is best known for her 1984 hit, "Centipede." She has stayed out of the spotlight but started performing again this year, a comeback she had planned last year but halted when her brother died. She spent a while after Michael's death in the family's compound, helping her mother with Prince, Paris and Blanket. Rebbie—in a rare interview—told NBC's "Today" show in April that like the rest of her family, she had difficulty coping after Michael died, even dissolving into tears when she heard her brother's music playing in a store. But she said enough time had passed that she felt comfortable performing again.

LATOYA JACKSON: LaToya was among the most vocal family members after her brother died. With Jermaine and Joe, she said she believed Michael was "murdered." She also put out a song, "Home," in tribute to Michael; the song had previously been released before his death. But her album, delayed after Jackson's death, has yet to be released. She has appeared with her family in court for the Murray case.

Anna Nicole Smith judge urges new police probe

MIAMI (AP)—The flamboyant judge brought to fame in the fight over Anna Nicole Smith's remains says he believes someone is guilty of manslaughter in the starlet's death and second-guesses his own decision over where she is buried in a book to be released Tuesday.

Smith

Larry Seidlin, the former Fort Lauderdale judge, is harshly critical of Smith's lawyer-turned-companion Howard K. Stern, and of the police investigations into the deaths of the Playboy Playmate and her son. But as provocatively titled as "The Killing of Anna Nicole Smith" is, Seidlin offers no evidence either death was anything more than the accidental drug overdoses they were deemed.

"I think enablers should be punished," Seidlin writes, then refers directly to Stern. "How about keeping her off drugs while she was alive? He was with her every day; how about saying no ..."

Then, the judge says, "we won't have all this celebrity blood on our hands."

Seidlin presided over the six-day televised hearing into the fate of Smith's body, shortly after her February 2007 death. His jurisdiction was limited to control of Smith's body; Florida never charged anyone in connection with her death.

Seidlin's hearing became a national obsession, with a cast of characters suited for reality TV. Bronx-born Seidlin, a former New York cab driver, was full of smart-alecky one-liners and nicknames for attorneys and witnesses. Dr. Joshua Perper, the medical examiner, became "Dr. Pepper" and lawyers were nicknamed "California" and "Texas," after their home states.

"I'm not going to talk about this case ever again," he promised at its close. But, of course, he did and he remained in the news, including the book from Canada-based Transit Publishing, which specializes in celebrity biographies.

In a phone interview Monday, Seidlin said he wrote the book because he was troubled by the deaths of Smith and her son. "When I was sitting in that trial," he said, "red flags were flying in front of me and I had a lot of sleepless nights."

'The Cove' to screen in Japan despite protests

TOKYO (AP)—"The Cove," an Oscar-winning film about a dolphin-hunting village in Japan, will be shown in the country from next month, despite pressure from nationalist groups that caused several theaters to cancel screenings.

The domestic distributor, Unplugged, said Monday that six theaters around the country will start showing the movie July 3, with 16 more to show it later.

Initial screenings of the film at three other theaters were canceled early this month after protests by nationalist groups, who say the film is anti-Japanese, distorts the truth, and has deep connections with a militant anti-whaling organization.

The issue erupted into a broad debate on freedom of speech after those theaters pulled out to avoid disruptive protests on their doorsteps. National newspapers widely condemned the cancellations in editorials, and prominent film makers, journalists and lawyers publicly urged theaters not to back down.

"We've increasingly been hearing from ordinary customers, who protest and say it is better that we work to show the film so that people can form opinions after they've seen it," said Takeshi Kato, president of Unplugged.

Japanese nationalist groups, known for blasting slogans from truck convoys and handheld loudspeakers, often use the threat of protests as leverage. Several such protests were held in front of Unplugged's offices in Tokyo, and twice outside Kato's home, he said.

Similar protests two years ago against "Yasukuni," a movie about a controversial war shrine, at first led to theater cancellations, but later made it one of Japan's most successful documentaries.

"The Cove," which won the Oscar for best documentary, stars Ric O'Barry, a former trainer for the "Flipper" TV show that is now a dolphin activist. It documents how a group of filmmakers use hidden cameras to capture bloody footage of a dolphin slaughter in a small fishing village.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

'American Idol' lowers age eligibility

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The next "American Idol" may not be able to drive a car. Fox said in a statement Monday that the age eligibility to audition for the upcoming 10th season of the singing competition would be lowered from 16 to 15 years old. The maximum age to audition remains 28. "American Idol" executive producer Cecile Frot-Coutaz said in a statement that "a lot of young, talented people are now seeking careers and representation before they turn 16." Auditions for the next season will begin July 17 in Nashville, Tenn. Other audition cities include Milwaukee, New Orleans, San Francisco, East Rutherford, N.J., and Austin, Texas.

Maya Angelou gets her dot on Jackson portrait

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (AP)—Poet Maya Angelou is inviting fans of Michael Jackson to be represented in a pointillism portrait of the late singer, who died almost a year ago. Angelou met Monday at her home in Winston-Salem, N.C., with artist David Ilan, who is putting together the tribute. Ilan placed a dot representing Angelou in the heart area on the portrait. Ilan says he hopes 1 million people will each ask through a website to be represented by one of the free dots. So far, the portrait has 250,000 dots, representing fans in 180 countries. Pointillism is an art technique in which small dots are used to form an image. Angelou also read the poem she wrote for Jackson's funeral, titled "We Had Him." Queen Latifah read the poem at the funeral.

Ansel Adams print sells for $722K at NYC auction

NEW YORK (AP)—A mural-size photograph by Ansel Adams of Yosemite National Park has sold for more than $722,000 at auction in New York City. Sotheby's says Monday's sale of the photograph set an auction record for Adams. "Clearing Winter Storm, Yosemite National Park" had been estimated to sell at a top price of $500,000 before bidding started. The auction house didn't release the name of the buyer. Other notable sales included photographs by Chuck Close, Andy Warhol and Lucas Samaras. About 1,000 Polaroid and gelatin silver prints by some of the biggest names in 20th-century photography are being offered at Sotheby's. The auction continues Tuesday. The prints are being sold by PBE Corp., a previous owner of the Polaroid brand.

Rapper Lil Wayne enters plea deal in Arizona case

YUMA, Ariz. (AP)—Rapper Lil Wayne could avoid jail time in Arizona on drug and weapon charges after entering a plea agreement with Yuma County prosecutors. During a change of plea hearing Friday in which he appeared via video from a New York jail, the 27-year-old Grammy winner pleaded guilty to one count of possession of a dangerous drug. The charge stems from an incident in January 2008 in which his tour bus was stopped at a U.S. Border Patrol checkpoint near Dateland, 78 miles east of Yuma. Authorities say they found cocaine, Ecstasy and a handgun on the tour bus. Prosecutors say the rapper, whose real name is Dwayne Carter, is scheduled to be sentenced June 30 and could receive 36 months of probation. He's currently serving an eight-month jail term in New York after pleading guilty last October to attempted criminal possession of a weapon.

Rick Atkinson wins prize for military writing

NEW YORK (AP)—Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and historian Rick Atkinson has received a $100,000 award for military writing. Atkinson has been awarded the 2010 Pritzker Military Library Literature Award for Lifetime Achievement in Military Writing. Atkinson has won Pulitzers for his book "An Army at Dawn" and for his reporting for The Washington Post. He is currently working on the final volume of his acclaimed World War II "Liberation" trilogy. The Pritzker award, announced Monday, was started in 2007. Previous winners include James McPherson and Allan Millett.

Accused Audrina Patridge stalker pleads no contest

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A man arrested outside Audrina Patridge's home has pleaded no contest to stalking "The Hills" star and will undergo psychiatric evaluation. Deputy District Attorney Wendy Segall says Zachary Loring entered the plea Monday in Los Angeles and will undergo a 90-day diagnostic evaluation before being sentenced. If found competent, he could be sentenced to up to two years in state prison. Patridge did not appear in court. She has previously testified in a civil restraining order hearing that she feared Loring, who police say repeatedly went to the starlet's home and left her numerous items, including some disturbing drawings. The 25-year-old Loring is due back in court on Sept. 20 for sentencing.

Blagojevich, known for hair, lauds wife's new 'do

CHICAGO (AP)—Rod Blagojevich, a man who knows a thing or two about hair, says he loves his wife's new 'do. The former Illinois governor, on trial for corruption, talked to reporters Monday about Patti Blagojevich's new haircut, a shorter bob-style. He said he thinks his wife is beautiful. And he added with a smile that, in his words, "I'm not just saying that because she's going to testify" in his defense. The governor himself is known for his voluminous head of hair. At times during the trial he has patted his trademark helmet hair to ensure the meticulously combed strands are in place. Blagojevich has pleaded not guilty to charges that he tried to sell President Barack Obama's vacated U.S. Senate seat and ran a racketeering scheme from the governor's office.

Man is eager for more than tales from wife's dating past

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Eric," and I are newlyweds. Several months ago, with a little coaxing, I shared my previous "history" with him. I used graphic terms and went into great detail. Eric found it extremely exciting, and we both benefited from it.

Recently, Eric mentioned how great it would be if I contacted one of my past lovers to push the envelope of passion even further. I agreed. My dinner date with the old flame was actually quite fun, with talk of the past. Eric thrilled at my description of the "date." His suggestion that I go out with my old beau and "enjoy myself" as I had when I was single, however, left me hurt and somewhat uncomfortable.

Eric hinted that a new "story" would take things to another level. He's completely OK with it, not at all jealous. I said I wasn't sure, but I'd consider it. What do you think?

MRS. R. IN ILLINOIS

DEAR MRS. R.: Some "envelopes" should remain sealed. Think long and hard before embarking on the path toward which your husband is leading you. Is this really the kind of marriage you signed up for? How would you feel about Eric looking up old flames and reporting back to you?

Frankly, I think you're being pushed in the wrong direction. The result could very well be that you end up feeling used and degraded.

DEAR ABBY: I want to help my son and grandchildren. His current wife moved out, taking their two little ones with her. His other three children from his first wife still live with him. They are upset about this and can't understand why they have been abandoned by their stepmom—just as they were by their birth mother. The little boy is taking it the hardest.

How can I help my grandchildren understand that this isn't their fault?

HEARTBROKEN GRANDMA IN TEXAS

DEAR HEARTBROKEN: If you and your son's second wife are on speaking terms, ask her to contact your grandchildren and explain that grown-ups sometimes can no longer live together, and they need to remain with their father. She should also tell them that her leaving has absolutely nothing to do with them.

If the children continue to have ongoing abandonment issues, they should be seen by a therapist who can help them put those issues to rest. All you can do is love your grandchildren and be there for them as much as possible.

DEAR ABBY: I work in the corporate office of a major airline and communicate with many employees throughout the country. I do a lot of traveling, both for business and for pleasure, and when I do, I encounter a lot of our employees who recognize me and say hello as I travel through their stations.

My problem is, I have a difficult time remembering names, and on occasion, recognizing faces. I'm embarrassed when this happens, and I don't know what to say. What's the best way to respond to someone who recognizes me, even though I don't recognize him or her?

RED-FACED IN WASHINGTON

DEAR RED-FACED: How about this? Smile at the person and say, "Hi! It's nice to see you." And let the person who recognized you take it from there.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

I'VE MISSED HALF OF MY TV SHOW NOW. I HOPE YOU'RE HAPPY.
YOU SHOULDN'T BE PLANNING YOUR LIFE AROUND THE TV ANYWAY.
HMPH.
LOOK, I DON'T THINK IT'S TOO MUCH TO ASK THAT WE SIT TOGETHER FOR 40 MINUTES WITHOUT DISTRACTIONS AND INTERRUPTIONS.
RINNGG!
I'LL GET IT. I'M EXPECTING A CALL.
GO AHEAD, DAD. I BELIEVE YOU WERE SAYING SOMETHING FUNNY.
I HAVE ALL THESE GREAT GENES, BUT THEY'RE RECESSIVE. THAT'S THE PROBLEM HERE.
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By Jim Davis

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AND I'M GOING TO SHRED THE DRAPES NOW
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www.garfield.com
JIM DAVIS 6-23
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Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

HEY, BUDDY, HOW'S COMPUTER CAMP? ANY FUN STUFF?
GOOD. WE'RE LEARNING ABOUT CLOUD-COMPUTING.
HOW WILL THAT HELP YOU CREATE A MANIACAL ROBOT?
IT WON'T. BUT IT'LL ELIMINATE TRADITIONAL SOFTWARE.
SHOOT. I THOUGHT YOU'D BE TAUGHT ABOUT MANIACAL ROBOTS.
WELL, WE DO HAVE AN HOUR ON BILL GATES.
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6-23

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Festive
5 Craze
8 Caspian Sea feeder
12 Pressing need?
13 Screw up
14 Pleasant
15 Moniker
17 Reverberate
18 Tar
19 Like 007's martinis
21 Sprite
22 Letter opener?
23 Pump up the volume
26 Drag behind
28 Lucy's pal
31 Seethe
33 High-arc shot
35 Aesopian also-ran
36 Winter warmer
38 La-la lead-in
40 Bankroll
41 Philosophy 101 subject
43 Sinbad's bird
45 "Nip/Tuck" actress Roma
47 No teeto-talers, they
51 Shaving cream additive
52 Bribe of a sort
54 Singer Vikki
55 Biblical verb suffix
56 Taj Mahal city
57 "Bye Bye Birdie" song
58 Perched
59 Neither masc. nor fem.

DOWN
1 Cotton machines
2 Met melody
3 Sites
4 Bracelet site
5 Scared
6 Branch
7 Frock
8 Dig up
9 Human-drawn transport
10 Liniment target
11 Ponce de —
16 Longtime Steelers coach Chuck
20 Hasten
23 Regis and Kelly's network
24 Cattle call
25 Actress Mary, "America's Sweetheart"
27 Moo — gai pan
29 Historic time
30 Began
32 Slip-on shoes
34 Beet recipe
37 Blackbird
39 Smee's captain
42 Accepts uncomplainingly
44 Kind of heel or cigar
45 "— the Knife"
46 Jai follower
48 Wise one
49 Beige
50 Old card game
53 Call — day

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	R	A	B	■	P	I	P	■	A	V	I	V
C	O	L	A	■	U	S	A	■	L	A	T	E
E	U	P	H	O	R	I	C	■	L	I	L	T
D	E	S	■	A	S	S	■	J	E	L	L	O
■	■	■	P	R	E	■	C	O	G	■	■	■
V	I	S	A	S	■	M	A	Y	O	R	A	L
A	D	A	R	■	J	A	B	■	R	O	L	E
S	O	M	E	D	A	Y	■	W	I	E	L	D
■	■	■	G	A	G	■	S	A	C	■	■	■
B	O	R	O	N	■	R	U	T	■	O	B	I
A	P	E	R	■	H	I	S	T	O	R	I	C
R	A	N	I	■	A	S	H	■	W	E	A	K
B	L	O	C	■	S	K	I	■	N	O	S	Y

Yesterday's answer 6-23

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				16				■	17			
18						■	19	20				
■	■	■	21			■	22				■	■
23	24	25	■	26		27	■	28			29	30
31			32	■	33		34	■	35			
36				37	■	38		39	■	40		
■	■	41			42	■	43		44	■	■	■
45	46					■	47			48	49	50
51				■	52	53						
54				■	55			■	56			
57				■	58			■	59			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jason Mraz, 33; Emmanuelle Vaugier, 34; Selma Blair, 38; Frances McDormand, 53

Happy Birthday: Make professional changes that will help you feel secure about your future. Use your mental attributes and you will find a place that suits you far better. You have to be able to go at your own speed to be successful. Finding your niche and stabilizing your life is in reach and where you should be putting your efforts. Your numbers are 4, 10, 18, 25, 32, 34, 41

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Love is on the rise but you don't have to spend money to win someone's affection. Emotional manipulation will come into play. Greater professional opportunities will be given if you push for the position you want. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Be very clear about what you want and how you see things unfolding. Leading someone on, even unintentionally, will cause problems. A trip or seminar will help you make a decision that you've been unable to make in the past. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Making decisions based on emotions will cost you financially. Love is in the stars. Leave room late in the day to do something with your lover or take part in an event that caters to singles, if you are unattached. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You can make personal changes as long as they aren't over-budget. Uncertainty regarding a family member will be difficult to address. Try listening for now and you will have a much better idea how to handle matters. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Travel, learning and greater involvement with friends, relatives and neighbors will be informative. Gambling or spending your money foolishly or being overtly generous to impress someone must be avoided. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Rethink your strategy if someone questions a financial deal you are considering. You may have missed a vital piece of information. An emotional concern can be dealt with if you act quickly and have a solution that is fair to everyone. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You'll get the help you need but don't take advantage of the person offering you assistance. Be honest about what has happened. Don't let a love relationship jeopardize your job, a friendship or your emotional well-being. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Getting in touch with people having similar interests or concerns will pay off personally and professionally. Your insight and creativity will attract an offer from someone in a position to help you present your ideas. Don't let a love relationship stand in your way. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): An emotional involvement can evolve into something much greater if you spend one-on-one time with the person you love. Don't limit the possibilities by keeping your thoughts and feelings a secret. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Take time to have a little fun. Don't neglect the people you are close to personally and emotionally or you may be left out of something that you might enjoy taking part in. Push hard to resolve a pending legal problem. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Someone from your past may try to force you into a situation you've been in before. Stand up to this person so you don't repeat the mistake. Love is in the stars but you must choose your partner wisely. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Focus on your family and friends and what will help make your home more inviting. Money can be made if you look at the services or skills you have to offer. Market what you can do and you can make some extra cash. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are engaging, active and always on the lookout for a good opportunity. You are dedicated and loyal but don't always get the same in return. You are emotionally changeable.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	8	2				5	4	
6			7		1			9
			8					6
			6					3
			1					5
		5					8	
	9					7		
8					3			
1	4	3	9		8	6	5	2

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/23

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

5	8	7	3	1	6	9	4	2
9	2	6	7	4	8	3	1	5
4	1	3	5	2	9	6	7	8
6	7	8	1	3	2	5	9	4
1	5	9	8	7	4	2	6	3
3	4	2	6	9	5	1	8	7
7	9	1	2	8	3	4	5	6
2	6	4	9	5	7	8	3	1
8	3	5	4	6	1	7	2	9

Difficulty Level ★★ 6/22

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BRIGHT FUTURE **Solution: 8 letters**

E	Y	T	F	P	O	S	I	T	I	V	E	E	(P) S
T	S	E	I	T	E	E	C	N	R	E	N	S	(L) N
A	H	C	N	A	R	U	C	A	R	O	V	U	(A) O
U	T	E	A	O	W	O	D	N	I	N	D	O	(N) I
D	N	S	N	P	M	N	F	T	A	E	Y	P	L T
A	O	R	C	E	E	A	A	M	H	M	R	S	A A
R	M	U	I	L	M	P	E	S	O	N	O	K	E C
G	H	O	A	I	U	F	I	B	E	C	T	R	D U
E	T	C	L	C	E	L	U	R	G	I	C	O	I D
C	L	Y	C	P	P	S	D	L	I	T	I	W	E E
N	A	O	T	M	I	L	I	A	F	Y	V	G	A L
A	E	R	O	N	I	D	T	A	T	I	R	O	H L
V	W	C	E	H	E	F	I	L	R	E	L	A	E I
D	C	S	C	E	C	V	M	A	E	R	D	L	A K
A	S	Y	E	A	R	S	E	F	R	I	E	N	D S

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Accomplished, Advance, Ahead, Business, Calendar, Career, Children, Comfort, Course, Date, Degree, Diploma, Dream, Education, Escape, Event, Family, Financial, Friends, Fulfill, Gift, Goal, Graduate, Ideal, Income, Life, Love, Money, Months, Name, Occupation, Plan, Positive, Raise, Romance, School, Skill, Spouse, Time, Victory, Wait, Wealth, Work, Years

Yesterday's Answer: Investigated

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle-difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just $4 each (U.S. funds only), payable to Universal Uclick. Include $3 postage for the first book order, $1 p&h for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480.

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WHATZIT Solution: A wolf in sheep's clothing

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Fitial eyes Cepeda's re-appointment to NMC board.
DPH to ask for extension of emergency declaration.
$1.35M earmarks for NMI now up for Obama
By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER
The fate of the $1.35 million in CNMI special projects funding requested by Del-
egate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) now rests with President Obama, after the conference report on the omnibus Fiscal Year 2010 spending bill cleared the U.S. Senate on Sunday.
Sablan's request for $1.35 million to fund seven programs and projects is contained in the Conference Report on Fiscal Year 2010 Consolidated Appropriations Act, a $447-billion spending measure for
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WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

WOWOLFOL

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Find today's solution in this section

Federer escapes major upset at Wimbledon

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—The situation was so unfamiliar to Roger Federer, so "uncomfortable," to use his term. On a surface he rules, at a tournament he owns, against an opponent he dominates, Federer found himself in serious trouble Monday: He dropped the first two sets against 60th-ranked Alejandro Falla of Colombia, then was a mere three points from losing in the first round of Wimbledon.

"I had Federer against the ropes," Falla would say later.

Eventually, the unheralded Falla succumbed to some jitters, and six-time Wimbledon champion Federer called upon his experience, summoned his customary excellence, overcame the daunting deficit and pulled away to win 5-7, 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 (1), 6-0 in the event's opening Centre Court match.

"You definitely feel, you know, uncomfortable, because if you're used to being down the whole time, your whole life, it's something that's kind of normal. For me, it's not normal to be down two-sets-to-love, especially at Wimbledon and early on in Grand Slams. It's something I'm not quite used to," said the top-seeded Federer, who hampered himself with seven double-faults. "But still, I was able to find a way. That's most important right now. Doesn't matter how I felt out there. Didn't feel great, that's for sure."

Had Falla finished off Federer, it would have been one of the most stunning upsets in the history of tennis—perhaps THE most stunning, taking into account the participants, the setting and the round.

Not sure? Consider the players' resumes entering the day:

-Federer was 92-13 for his career on grass, including 76-2 since 2003; Falla was 7-11.

-Federer was 51-5 for his career at Wimbledon, with those six championships and a record seven consecutive final appearances; Falla was 3-5 and never got past the second round at the All England Club.

-Federer was 199-28 with a record 16 titles in Grand Slam action and reached the final at 18 of the past 20 major tournaments; Falla was 11-14, only once making it as far as the third round at a Slam.

All of that is why this match was the talk of Day 1 at the grass-court Grand Slam tournament, with players gathering around televisions in the locker rooms to catch a glimpse.

"I don't think anyone expected it," said No. 5 Andy Roddick, a three-time Wimbledon runner-up who beat Rajeev Ram of Carmel, Ind., 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 later Monday. "Everyone was pretty surprised, especially when it became very, very real there in the latter stages."

Indeed, Falla's near-defeat of Federer generated much more buzz than any of the upsets that actually occurred.

The seeded men who exited were No. 11 Marin Cilic, No. 17 Ivan Ljubicic, No. 20 Stanislas Wawrinka and No. 30 Tommy Robredo. No. 3 Novak Djokovic, the 2008 Australian Open champion, appeared on his way to joining them, but he came back to beat Olivier Rochus of Belgium 4-6, 6-2, 3-6, 6-4, 6-2 in a match that finished at about 11 p.m., with the Centre Court roof closed and the lights on.

AP

Switzerland's Roger Federer yells after winning the third set against Colombia's Alejandro Falla at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships at Wimbledon, Monday, June 21, 2010.

There was one surprise of significance in the women's draw: No. 5-seeded Francesca Schiavone lost 6-7 (0), 7-5, 6-1 to 47th-ranked Vera Dushevina of Russia, making Schiavone only the second reigning French Open women's champion to lose in the first round at Wimbledon in the 42-year Open era.

"I didn't have a lot of energy today," said Schiavone, who became Italy's first female Grand Slam champion two weeks and two days ago. "It was very close, but she took advantage of her chances, and I didn't."

The only other time a French Open champ bowed out in her opening Wimbledon match was in 2005, when it happened to Justine Henin. The Belgian began a 20-month hiatus from tennis in 2008, and returned to Wimbledon for the first time in three years Monday, advancing with a 6-4, 6-3 victory over Anastasija Sevastova of Latvia.

Also returning: Kim Clijsters, who hadn't played at the All England Club since 2006. The two-time U.S. Open champion, away from the tour entirely for 2 1/2 years while getting married and having a daughter, had no problems in beating Maria Elena Camerin of Italy 6-0, 6-3.

Not surprisingly, Henin and Clijsters—neither of whom has won Wimbledon—were thrilled to be back.

"We breathe tennis, we live tennis, over here. You feel the tradition of the game," Henin said, then added: "Playing in white is a good feeling."

Venus Williams adhered to Wimbledon's strict dress code Monday, switching from the black lace outfit that drew so much attention at the French Open to more traditional attire.

"Here it's all about white," Williams said after eliminating Rossana de los Rios of Paraguay 6-3, 6-2. "There is no illusion this time. My dress was inspired by Tina Turner. ... It's just a fun, elegant dress."

Her bid for a sixth Wimbledon championship got off to a much more straightforward start than Federer's quest for a record-tying seventh.

Only twice in the Open era has the defending Wimbledon champion lost in the first round, but Federer appeared to be heading in that direction against the left-handed Falla. Here's one additional reason why the tightness of their match caught everyone off-guard: These guys met four times previously, and Federer won each time, taking all 11 sets.

Thanks to the luck—or, from Falla's perspective, the bad luck—of the draw, they were playing each other for the third time in the past four weeks.

"Everybody wants to play Federer," Falla said, then broke into a wide grin before delivering the laugh line: "But three times in one month is a lot."

In this case, familiarity did not breed contempt, but rather confidence. Falla felt he had a pretty good idea of what to expect, even sketching out something of a game plan for success against Federer, saying it was vital to go for it on returns, particularly on second serves, and to be aggressive by moving to the net whenever possible. Falla did all of that quite well for long stretches, backing up his strong serving and booming groundstrokes off both wings.

Also, Falla realized he was having a hard time dealing with Federer's sliced backhands in their recent encounters. To better prepare for that, Falla practiced with Sergiy Stakhovsky of Ukraine, who won a grass-court tuneup event in the Netherlands last week and often slices the ball.

Asked if all of the recent time on court together might have helped Falla on Monday, Federer grinned and joked, "It shouldn't have. ... He should have known that I was going to beat him. But he forgot."

There were two pivotal moments Monday.

Serving at 4-4, love-40 in the third set, Federer faced three consecutive break points—had Falla won any of those, he would have served for the match in the next game. Instead, Federer won all three, erased a fourth break point later en route to holding serve, then broke in the next game for the first time all match to take the set.

And then, at 5-4 in the fourth, Falla served for the match.

"A big chance," said Falla, whose left leg was massaged by a trainer during third-set changeovers.

So close to a breakthrough result, the 26-year-old Falla admitted he doubted himself a bit, and he could get no closer than three points from victory—at 15-30 and 30-40. On the last, Federer ripped a big forehand that forced an error by Falla to make it 5-all. Federer roared, as did the crowd, and that pretty much was that.

When Federer delivered a groundstroke winner to end the tiebreaker, then broke Falla's serve to open the fifth set, order was restored.

"Definitely got lucky," Federer acknowledged. "But that's how it goes sometimes."

Panthers' Smith breaks arm playing flag football

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Carolina Panthers receiver Steve Smith will miss the start of training camp with a broken left forearm suffered while playing football.

Flag football, that is.

Smith was injured Sunday while playing in a flag football game. It's an activity that could violate the terms of his contract, although Smith is expected back before the start of the regular season and may avoid serious punishment by the team.

The four-time Pro Bowl selection will be sidelined for at least the first couple of weeks of camp, but is expected to be ready for the opener Sept. 12 at the New York Giants.

"He put his arm out to brace himself. When he did he felt a sharp pain," said Smith's agent, Derrick Fox. "He went in (Sunday) afternoon to have an X-ray and it showed a break."

Smith had surgery Sunday night to have a small plate and screws inserted in his arm. Fox said while it's the same arm he broke at the end of last season, it's in a different spot and not his wrist. Smith suffered no nerve damage, is expected to make a full recovery and could return as soon as midway through the preseason.

Smith annually hosts a youth football camp in Charlotte which began Thursday, the day after the Panthers concluded voluntary spring workouts. Fox initially said Smith was injured playing with children at his camp, but later said he was unsure if he was playing with children or adults.

Smith's youth camp ended on Saturday, a day before he was injured.

Former Panthers quarterback Josh McCown told The Charlotte Observer he has played with Smith a few times in an adult flag football league at a Charlotte YMCA, but wasn't with him on Sunday.

Standard NFL contracts bar playing football outside of team settings and ban other risky activities, but Fox said he didn't believe the Panthers would take action since he should be healed for the regular season.

Panthers general manager Marty Hurney didn't return a phone message seeking comment, but did release a statement.

"Steve talked to me and he feels terrible about it," Hurney said. "Now his focus is on rehabilitating process and getting back as quickly as he can."

The 31-year-old Smith ranks first in team history with 58 touchdowns and 32 games of 100 or more yards receiving. Smith, who led the NFL in catches, yards receiving and touchdown catches in 2005, had 65 catches for 982 yards and seven touchdowns in 15 games last season.

His absence from the start of camp on July 28 will coincide with major changes made at quarterback for Carolina. The Panthers released longtime starter Jake Delhomme, promoted Matt Moore to starter and drafted Jimmy Clausen of Notre Dame in the second round.

The Panthers also enter the season looking for a No. 2 receiver after Muhsin Muhammad wasn't re-signed and then retired.

Thousands of fans cheer Lakers in tribute

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Tens of thousands of jubilant Los Angeles Lakers fans lined a two-mile route Monday, many waving purple and gold flags and T-shirts that read "Back 2 Back" as they cheered the NBA champions during a parade to celebrate the team's second consecutive title.

Kobe Bryant, Pau Gasol, Derek Fisher, Andrew Bynum and Ron Artest waved to the throngs from a flatbed 18-wheeler as fans yelled and snapped pictures. Many waited hours for a glimpse of their heroes as they rolled past in a convoy that also included double-decker buses and fire engines.

"We saw them for three minutes, but it was worth every minute," said Trisha Siqueiros, 29, who drove two hours from Indio with her father, Ron Nieto, 51, for the parade. "The only thing is they should have driven a little slower."

Police reported a largely well-behaved crowd. Seven people were arrested for various minor offenses, police said. Authorities did not provide a crowd estimate.

The hourlong parade capped a season that ended Thursday with an 83-79 Game 7 victory over the Boston Celtics and a 16th NBA title for the Lakers.

Team members vowed to play hard for a 17th championship next season.

"When next season starts, we'll be ready, that's for sure," Bryant told reporters. He added that of his five titles, "this is the best one by far because it was the hardest one to get."

Artest, who donned a top hat with purple and gold feathers and sported an unlit cigar during the ride, also said the team plans to buckle down. "We have to party for another week, then start putting in the work and write history again next year," he said.

The parade, which took the Lakers from Staples Center downtown to the Galen Center at the University of Southern California, started with the purple-clad Laker Girls, who received choruses of wolf-whistles.

The tribute also included past Lakers greats Earvin "Magic" Johnson and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. The crowd screamed "Ma-gic! Ma-gic!" when they spotted the player-turned businessman.

Missing from the parade was coach Phil Jackson, who had to attend previously scheduled medical checkups, said team spokesman John Black. Jackson has said his health will determine whether he will return as coach.

"This is the highest priority for him and for us in determining whether he's going to come back and coach for us again next year," Black said.

Artest said he wished Jackson could have been there. "He's my favorite coach of all time," Artest said. "I enjoyed it for him."

Diehard fans wore all manner of Lakers attire and colors, from sneakers to purses to Mexican-style ponchos. Some waved huge flags and held up signs, like a foam tombstone reading "RIP Boston" and "Back to back without Shaq."

Many fans took a day off work to pay tribute to their team.

Window washer Jimmy Baskom, 58, said he forewent the day's pay to drive in from Palmdale because he wanted to see his longtime basketball heroes up close after watching every game this season on TV.

"I've been a die-hard fan all my life and I watch every game, but this is my first opportunity to see them in person," he said.

Electrician Orie Stewart of Los Angeles said he took a day off to bring his 14-year-old granddaughter to the event. "We've been longtime fans," he said. "I'm raising my grandchildren to be Lakers fans."

The police presence was heavy around the parade route with helicopters overhead and officers on foot, horseback, motorcycle and in cars to deter would-be vandals. After Thursday's game, people started fires, rocked cars, smashed windows and threw objects at fans and officers. At least 42 people were arrested.

The Los Angeles city attorney's office said Monday 10 people will be prosecuted on misdemeanor charges including inciting a riot, unlawful assembly after being told to disperse, throwing flammable objects, and assault.

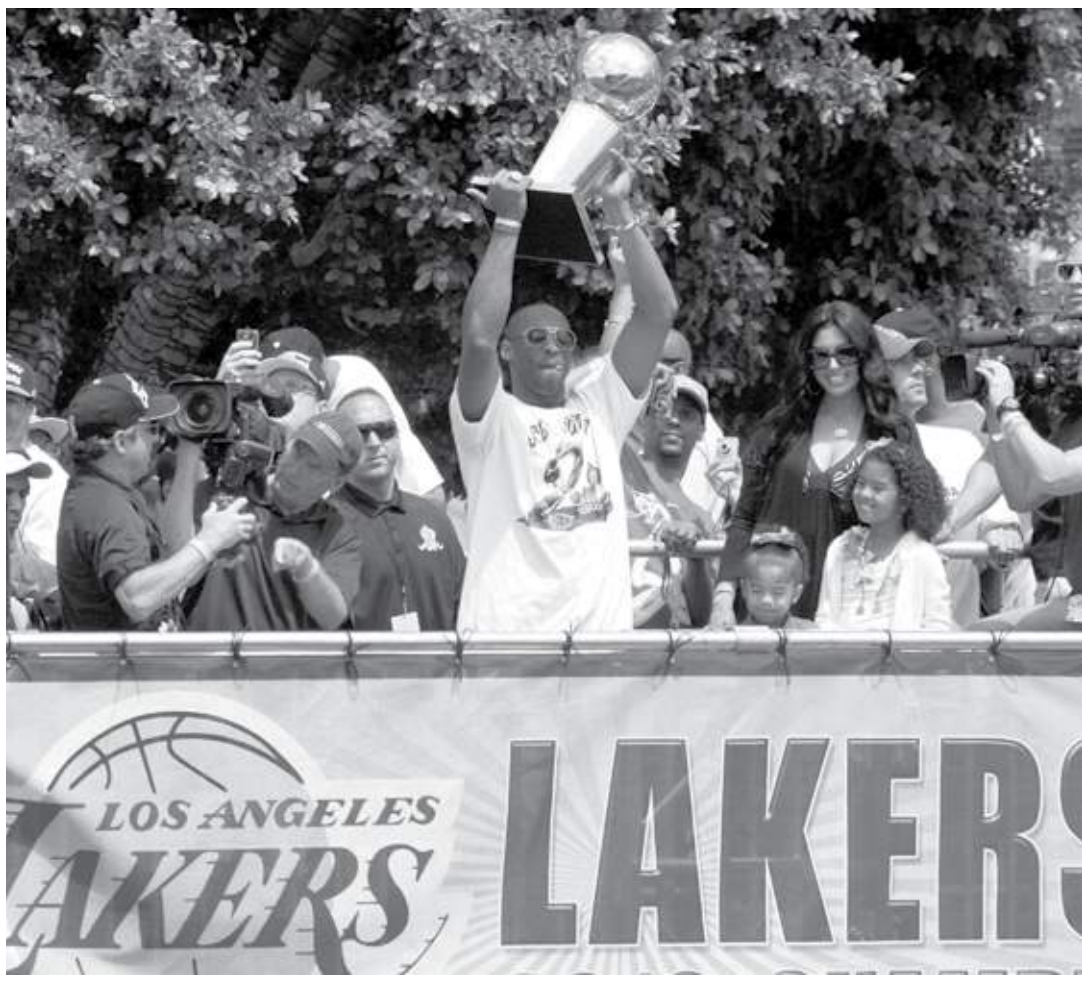
In one case, a man was accused of setting fire to a Celtics jersey, said senior assistant city attorney Chuck Goldenberg. Another man was arrested for allegedly throwing a bicycle at a police officer, and other charges resulted from people throwing rocks at officers and other offenses.

Cabbie Abraham Teferi, whose taxi was attacked and burned by the mob, was given a $10,000 check by Staples Center owner AEG.

AEG president and CEO Tim Leiweke said the taxi was covered by the cab company's insurance so AEG decided to cover the personal expenses of Teferi, 41, an Ethiopian immigrant who has been in the United States for nine years.

"This isn't about a car. This is about a life," Leiweke said.

Fans left no doubt they were looking for a third title next year. "I'm just as excited this year because it's the second time in a row," said Teresa Howe, 42, of Simi Valley. "I'm looking forward to a three-peat. And I'll be here next year."



AP

Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant holds the NBA championship trophy aloft during the basketball team's victory parade in Los Angeles, Monday, June 21, 2010. The Lakers defeated the Boston Celtics for the title, four games to three.

Big names on outside looking in at NBA *draft*

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Omar Samhan's throwback drop-steps in the post and new-age candor with the media made him one of the breakout stars of the NCAA tournament in March.

The outspoken center captivated fans with his skills on the court and drew belly laughs in the press room with sharp one-liners while leading little St. Mary's to the round of 16 for the first time in more than 50 years.

The 6-foot-11 Samhan averaged 30.5 points and 9.5 rebounds in victories over Richmond and Villanova in college basketball's marquee event, but is finding NBA executives and scouts much more difficult to charm.

Most mock drafts forecast that Samhan will not be drafted on Thursday.

"The politically correct answer would be, 'Oh you know, it happens, that's the way it is,'" Samhan said after a workout with the Minnesota Timberwolves this month. "I think it's crap, to be blunt with you. I feel like I do a lot for my team, for my school and still just don't get a lot of credit, a lot of love."

Don't worry, Omar. You're not alone.

College stars like Villanova All-American Scottie Reynolds, Kansas point guard Sherron Collins and Notre Dame forward Luke Harangody are deemed second-round picks at best. Xavier's Jordan Crawford may fall out of the first round, even after averaging 29 points a game in the Musketeers' run to the round of 16.

"You can look at it like, 'What more do you want me to do?'" said Crawford, who left after his sophomore season. "But you still have to come out here and show what you can do and that you're worth a first-round pick."

Many of college basketball's best players have used the bright lights of the postseason to increase their draft stock. Jonny Flynn's performance in Syracuse's epic six-overtime win over Connecticut in the Big East tournament in 2009 helped propel him up the draft board, where the Timberwolves took him at No. 6.

Butler's Gordon Hayward lifted himself into lottery consideration this year after leading the Bulldogs on an improbable run to the NCAA title game.

But there are plenty of decorated college careers drawing yawns from NBA talent evaluators.

Reds hit 3 homers in 10th, hold off A's in 6-4 win

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Ramon Hernandez hit a tiebreaking leadoff home run in the 10th inning, Joey Votto and Scott Rolen added back-to-back shots and the Cincinnati Reds snapped out of their offensive slump long enough to beat the Oakland Athletics 6-4 on Monday night.

Oakland's Kevin Kouzmanoff tied the game with a leadoff home run in the bottom of the ninth off Reds closer Francisco Cordero before the Reds powered up in the 10th off relievers Michael Wuertz and Cedrick Bowers.

Cordero (3-3) got the win after his fifth blown save of the season. He gave up a pair of walks leading off the 10th before two more Cincinnati relievers were needed to close the game out.

The win moved Reds manager Dusty Baker into a tie with Chuck Tanner for 26th place on the all-time list.

Cincinnati had taken a 2-1 lead in the top of the ninth when pinch-hitter Jay Bruce singled off Oakland closer Andrew Bailey to drive in Drew Stubbs.

Kouzmanoff's third career home run off Cordero tied the game again before the Reds snapped a long offensive slump after scoring just one run in three games while getting swept in a three-game series at Seattle over the weekend.

Hernandez hit an 0-1 pitch from Wuertz (2-1) that bounced off the right field foul pole, breaking the 2-2 tie. Brandon Phillips followed with a single and advanced to second on a sacrifice before Votto's two-run shot off Bowers. Rolen followed with his home run, tying Votto for the team lead with 15.

Cincinnati won for just the second time in 10 regular-season games against the A's, who have dropped eight of their last 10 overall.

After Cordero's two walks in the 10th, Kurt Suzuki singled off Daniel Ray Herrera to load the bases. Ryan Sweeney's fielder's choice made it 6-3 before Jordan Smith got Kouzmanoff on a run-scoring grounder and then struck out Jack Cust for his first career save.

Oakland starter Gio Gonzalez gave up an unearned run in the first inning after shortstop Cliff Pennington bobbled Phillips' grounder. Votto's one-out double drove in Phillips, Cincinnati's second run scored in 31 innings.

The Reds didn't get much else off Gonzalez, who scattered four hits over seven innings. He also had nine strikeouts, one shy of his career high.

Cincinnati rookie Mike Leake was just as solid but left with a no-decision for the fifth time in his last seven starts. The right-hander didn't allow a hit until Pennington's one-out bloop single in the third and got some help from his defense. After Conor Jackson singled in Rajai Davis in the fifth, Cincinnati left fielder Jonny Gomes threw out Daric Barton at third base after Barton overslid the bag.

Diamondbacks 10, Yankees 4

At Phoenix, Justin Upton, Adam LaRoche and Mark Reynolds homered off struggling A.J. Burnett in the first inning as Arizona cruised past the New York Yankees.

Upton, who added a three-run homer in the eighth, reached base five times, had four RBIs and scored four runs. Miguel Montero was 3 for 4 with a double and two RBIs as the Diamondbacks won at home for the 11th time in 16 games. They have lost 14 of 15 on the road.

Burnett (6-6) gave up seven runs and nine hits in four innings with no strikeouts and two walks.

Rodrigo Lopez (3-6) gave up three runs and eight hits in eight innings for his first victory since May 15.

Nationals 2, Royals 1

At Washington, Mike Morse and Cristian Guzman hit solo home runs and Livan Hernandez pitched seven strong innings as Washington snapped a six-game losing streak in a victory over Kansas City.

Hernandez (6-4) had his longest outing since May 9, giving up one run and eight hits to help the Nationals snap their longest losing streak since an eight-game skid last Aug. 28 to Sept. 5.

Matt Capps struck out the side—all on called strikes—in the ninth for his major league-leading 21st save in 25 chances.

Bruce Chen (3-2), making his fifth start for Kansas City since moving from the bullpen, allowed two runs and three hits in six innings.

Pacific Games qualifier this Saturday

The fourth qualifying tournament for the 2011 Pacific Games will be held this Saturday, June 26, at Coral Ocean Point.

Check-in time is at 11am, while tee time is set for 12pm. The fourth qualifier will be played from the blue tee.

Golfers who competed in the first three qualifiers from the white tee are asked to join the weekend event if they can't make it to the optional qualifier in September.

Scores in all four regular qualifiers will be combined to determine the five golfers who will represent the CNMI to the Pacific Games in New Caledonia next year.

The fifth qualifier (blue tee) set for September will give participants the chance to make up or drop their lowest score in the first four trials.

The definite date for the September tournament will be announced later.

For more information, contact Jess Wabol at 288-1129, Edward Manibusan at 235-6520, Jeff Taylor at 483-2513, or Jordon Kosam at 483-4506. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

Wabol

TRACKSTERS

From Page 28

those who passed the qualifier.

The cost to send a delegate to the Micro Games is around $1,000. Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association will be shouldering $250 and is each athlete/delegate is required to pay only $426, as NMASA also received contribution from the $60,000 re-appropriation from the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.

The CNMI will be competing in more than 40 athletics events and is aiming to surpass its medal haul in the 2006 edition of the Micro Games Saipan hosted. The CNMI won three gold medals, seven silver, and five bronze in the 6th Micronesian Games.

Rangamar said the CNMI has equal chances of winning medals in the running, throwing, and field events.

"Guam is still the team to beat, but we will also have a tough battle against Palau since they are the home crown favorite. You can't count FSM out, too, especially in sprint races. Overall, we have a pretty good chance to hauling more medals this year," Rangamar said.

The 7th Micronesian Games will run from Aug. 1 to 10 and athletics competition will be held from Aug. 3-6.

Let's Go to Palau fundraiser

Meanwhile, a fundraiser dubbed Let's Go to Palau Rocball Tournament will be held from June 25 to 27 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

This is a co-ed four-person tournament and each team is allowed to have a maximum of six players. Entrance fee is $10 per player. Proceeds for the event will benefit Nekaifes and Gechig, who are hoping to join the CNMI Athletics Team to Palau.

Trophies will be awarded to the Top 3 finishers. There will also be awards for Master Blaster, Kee Master, Ace Master, Xunk Master, and Jam Master.

Interested teams are asked to attend a meeting tomorrow at 5:30pm at the MHS gym.

For more information, contact Nekaifes at 235-6559 or Gechig at 898-4444.

SAIPAN

From Page 28

error and scored of a pass ball to tie it up.

After Tinian went 1-2-3 to start the second, Saipan added two more runs from P.J. Sablan and Caleb Takao. Sablan drew a one-out walk and scored on a one-out pitch, while Takao reached off an error and scored on another passed ball.

Later in the fifth, Saipan added a run from Terson Aina after he reached on a fielder's choice and scored off on a error.

Saipan winning pitcher Muna pitched all six innings and allowed zero earned runs with eight strikeouts, two hits, zero walks, and one hit by a pitch.

Although, Tinian fell short against Saipan in the championship game, it marked the first time in five years that the island advanced to the finals.

JUNIOR LEAGUE
Saipan 11, Rota 1

Saipan reasserted its mastery over its neighboring islands when its Junior All-Stars whipped Rota, 11-1, in the Juniors championship game at the Tinian Municipal Field.

After a scoreless first, visitors took a five-run lead. It started out when Keene Guerrero hit a two-RBI single that scored Jonathan Cabrera and Khobby Kaipat.

Guerrero later scored off an error and his teammate, Shane D.L. Guerrero, connected on a base hit and scored off a pass ball.

With two outs, Jared Sablan hit a inside-the-park solo homerun.

In bottom half, Felix Ogo led off with a single for Rota and then stole third and home plate after his team moved him to second to give Rota its lone run of the game.

Rota struggled at the plate the whole game against Jared Sablan and they had a hard time finding base runners.

Saipan added two more runs in the third, one run in the fourth, and three runs in the fifth before winning pitcher Jared Sablan closed them out in five innings.

Sablan threw a one hitter with seven strikeouts, four walks, and one hit by pitch.

SENIOR LEAGUE
Saipan 17, Rota 2

Rota started shaky on the mound that allowed Saipan Senior All-Stars to jump out to an early 4-0 lead at the start of the game en route to a 17-2 win in the finals of the Senior League.

In the bottom half, Saipan allowed a couple of base runners but recaptured their composure to escape the inning.

Rota then held off Saipan to start the second but failed to answer in the bottom half.

Saipan then busted the game open with a big seven-run inning in the third.

Greg Iskawa knocked in Leonard Sablan with a double. An out later, McGarett Duenas reached with a base hit.

Joseph Palacios kept it going with a two-RBI single that scored Duenas and Iskawa.

Ricardo and Richard Dela Cruz reached off a walk and a bean ball to load the bases. Harry Nakamura came next and delivered a two-RBI single that scored Palacios and Ricardo Dela Cruz.

Jesse Yamagishi then singled in Richard Dela Cruz and after Saipan loaded the bases a second time, another run was walked in before Rota could get out of the nightmare inning.

In the bottom of the third, Rota tried to fight back but only managed a couple of runs for its effort.

With one out, they loaded the bases with a hit, a walk, and an error. Then Cisco Atalig was issued a free pass to the plate off another base on balls. His teammate, Samson Lizama, later stole home to make the score 11-2 after three innings.

After a quiet fourth inning, Saipan piled on six more runs in the top of the fifth with the help a lot of errors from the Rota side.

Rota was flustered and went 1-2-3 in the bottom half. Their first two batters stuck out and the third was caught stealing after getting plunked to end the game.

Palacios went 2-for-3 with two RBIs and two runs, while Nakamura went 2-for-3 with three RBIs, two runs, one walk, and a stolen base to lead the victors.

NATIONALS

From Page 28

three-point play, but his basket was enough to give the Nationals' cushion, 85-82, with 1:37 left in the game.

Neither team scored for about a minute before Darwin Barbo made a layup and moved IT&E within one, 84-85, 21.6 seconds to go in overtime.

With the 24-second shot clock down, IT&E was forced to give up the foul to buy time. However, instead of fouling the Nationals early, IT&E gambled on a steal and when it could snatch the ball, it finally gave up a foul, with only 3.8 seconds remaining in the match.

Mendiola trooped to the foul line for a pair of free throws and made both, upping the Nationals' lead to three, 87-84.

IT&E sued for time to set up the last play and had Edsel Mendoza inbound the ball from the right sideline near midcourt. Mendoza passed the leather to Elmer Esdrelon, who was partially open for a triple from the right key. However, Dan Barcinas came out of nowhere and leaped high to challenge the attempt, forcing Esdrelon to change his shot in mid-air. The ball hit nothing but air, giving the Nationals their second win.

The Nationals had a walk in the park in their debut in the nine-team league after clobbering the Michelob Ultra Sixers, 105-55.

However, their second match proved to be a tougher one, as the Nationals trailed by as much as 12 points in the second half before Barcinas and Mendiola teamed up in putting the team back into the game.

"This is exactly the kind of game we need to prepare them for the tough matches in Palau," said coach Rufino Aguon, who fielded the Nationals in the Budweiser caging to prepare them for the 2010 Micronesian Games.

The Nationals had a chance to win the match in regulation when it led, 78-76, with less than a minute left in the fourth quarter. However, the Nationals committed three errant passes, which Mendoza stole, allowing IT&E to send the game in overtime.

Mendoza's first steal came off Jose Tumaquip's crosscourt pass to Barcinas. Mendoza then sprinted for a fastbreak layup, but fumbled against the defense of two Nationals players. Mendoza had another crosscourt steal and this time waited for his teammates to set up their offense.

However, when he passed the ball to Barbo, the latter lost it and there was a battle for the loose ball. Barbo dove for the leather and was fouled. He stepped on the stripe and canned both free throw to tie the game, 78-all, 24.5 ticks to go in the fourth period.

For the third time, Mendoza picked the Nationals' pocket, but he could not keep the ball, as it was counter stolen by Quincy Johnson. Then the Nationals had the last shot in the fourth period, but Barcinas' fallaway jumper was off and when the ball landed on the floor, time had already ran out, forcing both teams to play five more minutes.

The Nationals and IT&E had a neck-and-neck battle in the first half, which ended with the former ahead by only a deuce, 36-34. At the start of the second half, IT&E held the Nationals to two fields goals in the first four minutes of the third quarter, which concluded with the former on top, 60-48.

The Nationals could not find the right combination in their second game and to make things worse, they had three players fouling out in the fourth—Lizama, Pete Iguel, and James Lee. With their two big men and one gunner out, Mendiola and Barcinas stepped up to save the day for the Nationals.

Meanwhile, Becks 670 improved to a 2-0 record after winning by forfeit against the Sixers.

Bud Light CNMI Nationals 87 – Mendiola 14, Iguel 14, Barcinas 14, Lizama 11, Tumaquip 9, Chariton 7, Palacios 7, Naraja 4, Lee 2.

Hoegaarden IT&E 84 – Barbo 21, Esdrelon 17, Mendoza 16, Schuler 6, Berline 5, Aquino 4, Capalad 4, Brostrom 3, Talania 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-15, 36-34, 48-60, 87-84.

PORTUGAL

From Page 28

goals poured forth on Monday.

Raul Meireles gave the Portuguese a 1-0 halftime lead, and Tiago added two in the second half to complement Ronaldo's strike and those from Simao Sabrosa, Hugo Almeida and Liedson.

"It was a great day for Portugal and Portuguese football," Portugal coach Carlos Queiroz said "The players are really happy with the way they played, the attitude for the game, the beautiful football, the beautiful goals."

Portugal still has to play Brazil to get into the round of 16. The five-time champions have already qualified.

The 7-0 rout was the most one-sided World Cup match since Germany beat Saudi Arabia 8-0 at the 2002 tournament in South Korea and Japan.

Spain was also disappointing in its opener, losing to Switzerland 1-0, but David Villa took care of things against the Hondurans, scoring in the 17th and 51st minutes.

Villa, who has now scored five career World Cup goals for his country, had a chance for a hat trick in the 62nd but his penalty shot went wide of the right post with the goalkeeper diving the opposite direction.

Spain will face Chile in its final group match, and will likely need to win convincingly in order to avoid facing Brazil in the round of 16.

"If we beat Chile we're practically group winners, so we're happy," Villa said. "The good thing is that this result means we depend on ourselves."

In Port Elizabeth, substitute Mark Gonzalez scored the only goal in the 75th, heading in a pass from Esteban Paredes to give the Chileans a perfect record through two matches in the group.

"We had some good luck near the end when we got the goal," Gonzalez said. "We just kept trying our best, trying hard, and we got the goal. This was a great moment for me and for our team."

Switzerland played most of the match with 10 men because midfielder Valon Behrami was red-carded for violent conduct.

Also, the football fan who walked into the England dressing room after its 0-0 draw against Algeria will go on trial on Friday. Pavlos Joseph appeared in a Cape Town court for the second time Monday to face trespassing charges.

In Paris, French bank Credit Agricole SA suspended a television advertisement featuring some of France's best players because the national team refused to train on Sunday.

The players said they didn't want to practice because striker Nicolas Anelka was sent home for insulting the French coach.

The fast-food chain Quick also said it is canceling an advertising campaign with Anelka because of the player's poor image.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	43	27	.614	—
Tampa Bay	42	27	.609	1/2
Boston	43	28	.606	1/2
Toronto	38	32	.543	5
Baltimore	19	50	.275	23 1/2

Central Division

Minnesota	40	29	.580	—
Detroit	38	30	.559	1 1/2
Chicago	34	34	.500	5 1/2
Kansas City	29	42	.408	12
Cleveland	26	42	.382	13 1/2

West Division

Texas	41	28	.594	—
Los Angeles	39	33	.542	3 1/2
Oakland	34	38	.472	8 1/2
Seattle	28	41	.406	13

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	42	28	.600	—
New York	39	30	.565	2 1/2
Philadelphia	35	32	.522	5 1/2
Florida	33	36	.478	8 1/2
Washington	32	39	.451	10 1/2

Central Division

St. Louis	38	31	.551	—
Cincinnati	38	33	.535	1
Chicago	31	38	.449	7
Milwaukee	29	40	.420	9
Houston	26	44	.371	12 1/2
Pittsburgh	25	44	.362	13

West Division

San Diego	40	29	.580	—
San Francisco	38	30	.559	1 1/2
Los Angeles	38	31	.551	2
Colorado	36	33	.522	4
Arizona	28	43	.394	13

Yeserday's Games

Washington 2, Kansas City 1
Cincinnati 6, Oakland 4, 10 innings
Arizona 10, N.Y. Yankees 4

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4th Annual Marianas Football Cup

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Members of the CNMI Women's National Team are joined by youth players during the opening ceremony for the 4th Annual Marianas Football Cup last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Members of the Guam Women's National Team are escorted by CNMI youth players.

CNMI team captain Carrie Knight, left, and her Guam counterpart Rhoda Bamba shake hands before the start of the game.

Japan Football Association's Fusako Kajiyama, second right, leads the list of officials for the CNMI vs. Guam game. From left, Vanesa Pritchard, Gabriel Arkoh, Kajiyama, and Catherine Anderson.

CNMI goalie Rebecca Newman-Schroeder goes for a save during the first half of their game against Guam. Guam won, 1-0, on Rhoda Bamba's goal in the second half.

CNMI and Guam players chase the ball.

Guam's Kristin Thompson, left, goes for a kick against a phalanx of CNMI defenders.

Madison Smith and Carrie Knight check on teammate Lynique Oveson, who fell on the ground after colliding with a Guam defender.

CNMI's Carrie Knight goes for a corner kick.

CNMI's Amber Roberts, right, keeps up with Guam's Kristin Thompson.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Saipan All-Stars dominate District tourney

25 tracksters make grade for Micro Games

Several members of the CNMI Athletics Team perform drills during a clinic with Guam's coach Carl Cruz late last month at the Oleai Sports Complex.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

"Tia de Preril"

The CNMI will have 25 entries to the medal-rich athletics competition of the 7th Micronesian Games in Palau this August.

Leading the list are 6th Micronesian Games silver medalists Tyrone Omar and Jacque Wonenberg. Joining them are Ryan Ichihara, Dennis Ngirochongor, Antonio Ichiou, Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel, Ronald Villafria, Trevor Ogumoro, Jesus Iguel, Ronald Olopai, Nick Gross, Sylvan Rangamar, Gabriel White, Douglas and Francisco Dillay, Clayton Kenty, Yvonne and Yvette Bennett, Lia Rangamar, Rachel Abrams, Joan Reyes, Emiliana Quitugua, Jeneque Benavente, Reylynn Sapong, and Mamiko Oshima-Berger.

These athletes made the team after competing in a series of qualifying tournaments Northern Marianas Athletics conducted the past months to select the CNMI's representative to the Micro Games.

NMA developmental coach Elias Rangamar said a few more athletes may still make the team, depending on their ability to raise funds for the trip. Others being considered on the squad are Jordan Marciano, Beo Ngirochongor, Danny Bai, Edward Manalili, Heartim Williams, Tanner Kenty, Keith Nabors, Brandon Philip, John Nekaifes, J.R. Gechig, Leroy Rangamar, Michael Mancao, Orrin Pharmin, and Jennifer Leskosek. NMA is providing financial assistance only to

See TRACTSTERS on Page 26

By WALTER J. SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

TINIAN MUNICIPAL FIELD, Tinian—Saipan Little League All-Stars in the Major, Junior, and Senior divisions yesterday swept the finals of the 2010 CNMI Little League District Tournament.

The Big League game between Saipan and Rota, meanwhile, was still being played as of press time with the former ahead 5-2 in the fifth inning.

Saipan ballplayers started the day on right foot after the Saipan Major All-Stars defeated a competitive Tinian team, 4-1, at the Tinian Little League Field.

The home team started the scoring when leadoff batter Keyshaub Nabors was a bit by a pitch and scored off an error, which accounted for Tinian's only run of the game.

In the bottom half, Saipan's Michael Muna reached off on

See SAIPAN on Page 26

Saipan Junior All-Stars' Jared Sablan, seen here in a file photo, threw a one hitter in the team's 11-1 win against Rota in the Junior League championship game of the 2010 CNMI Little League District Tournament played yesterday at the Tinian Municipal Field.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Nationals survive IT&E in OT

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Bud Light CNMI Nationals' Dan Barcinas, left, beats Hoegaarden IT&E's Kirk Schuler for the battle for the loose ball during their game in the Budweiser caging on Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Bud Light CNMI Nationals passed an early litmus test after eking out an 87-84 win over Hoegaarden IT&E in the lone game played in the 2010 Budweiser Men's Basketball League Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Pete Mendiola, who struggled offensively in the first three quarters, took over in the fourth and in overtime when the Nationals lost big man Jack Lizama due to fouls. Mendiola scored 14 points, seven in the fourth, and the Nationals' last four markers in the extra period.

In overtime, Mendiola canned an undergoal stab and drew a foul on Bruce Berline. Mendiola, who was held to a field goal in the first three periods, failed to complete the

See NATIONALS on Page 26

Portugal scores 7 on N. Korea, Spain wins

AP
Portugal's Simao Sabrosa, second right, celebrates with teammates after scoring during the World Cup group G soccer match between Portugal and North Korea in Cape Town, South Africa, Monday, June 21, 2010.

CHRIS LEHOURITES
AP SPORTS WRITER

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—Portugal exploded for seven goals in its second match at the World Cup, dominating North Korea and knocking the Asian team out of the tournament, and Spain got back on track with a 2-0 win over Honduras on Monday.

The 2006 World Cup semifinalist Portuguese finally got a goal from Cristiano Ronaldo in the 7-0 rout in Cape Town. It was the Real Madrid winger's first goal for his country in two years in competitive games.

Also, Spain got its first win of the tournament at Ellis Park in Johannesburg, but it was Chile that moved into first place in Group H with six points by beating 10-man Switzerland 1-0.

Portugal was held to a 0-0 draw by Ivory Coast in its opening Group G match, but the

See PORTUGAL on Page 26